

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXI.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	341
Leading Articles:—	
A China Manufacturing Co.	342
Naval Admirable Crichtons	342
Currency Doubts	342
China's Potential Militarism	343
Hongkong Legislative Council	344
Hongkong Sanitary Board	345
Supreme Court	346
Canton Notes	348
Correspondence	348
A Tramway Fatality	349
Chinese Christians	349
"Gascoigne Road."	349
Alleged Armed Robbery	349
Irregular Deforestation	349
Missionaries in Japan	349
Chinese "Judicial Torture" Again	349
Commercial	350
Shipping	352

BIRTH.

On 8th May, at Chenchou, S. Hunan, the wife of the Rev. CHAS. H. DEAR, A.P.M., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 29th March, at Kensington, REGINALD NOBLE TRUMAN, of Tientsin, to ESMÉ THURSTON DUNLOP.

On 29th May, at Hongkong, THOMAS PETRIE, journalist, son of JOHN SMITH PETRIE, Esq., of Zoar, Forfar, Scotland, to LETTIE PARKER, widow of CHARLES PARKER, of Taku, North China.

On 31st May, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. J. H. Fiance, M.A., MURIEL WINIFRED, daughter of Mrs. BATEMAN, to HAROLD KENNARD, son of the late HENRY J. HOLMES.

DEATH.

At his residence, No. 40, Elgin Street, JORGE FRANCISCO KRAAL, age 48 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 28th April arrived, per the s.s. *Caledonien*, on Tuesday the 30th ultimo; and the English Mail of the 5th May arrived, per the s.s. *Malta*, on Thursday, the 1st June.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is reported that the Chinese Government intends to adopt "zone time" throughout the whole empire.

The Japanese authorities at Newchwang have been suppressing by force the pirates who infested the coast of Liaotung.

The Chairman of Weeks and Co., Limited, Shanghai, congratulated the shareholders on the fact that last year was the most successful the Company had experienced.

Commercial Intelligence remarks that it can count its hostile critics on one hand. There is not much intelligence, commercial or otherwise, needed to employ the digits as an abacus.

The heavy fall of rain on 30th May caused a bad landslide in Conduit Road, just below the entrance to Sir Paul Chater's new residence. Two or three tons of rock and soil blocks the road.

We hear that Mr. Tan Joo Chui is now no longer manager of the Opium Farm, and that Mr. Wee Kay Siang, a big shareholder, has come from Singapore to supervise the working of the farm.

A junk capsized off Kowloon Docks on the 30th May during a squall, four of the occupants being thrown into the sea. The water police under P. C. Munro were quickly on the scene and picked up the crew. The masts of the junk were then cut away, after which she was righted, but not before her cargo was lost.

The London *Daily Mail* is unfortunate in some of its correspondents. On April 26th its Hongkong correspondent telegraphed: "The cable to Hainan is cut, and it is suspected that this is the work of the Russians, or of Russian agents." Next day the *Daily Mail* discussed this "fresh offence against the laws of neutrality." The Hainan cable was not cut, and the *Mail's* correspondent must have known it wasn't. One of the Cable Company's officials said at the time: It is always breaking.

If Chinese can be taught to be as good policemen as the Japanese, they will be bad to beat. Japanese journals report, says the *Japan Mail*, that 52 Chinese students have just graduated from the Police school of Japan. 34 are from Peking and 18 from Hupeh. They have received practical instruction in the discharge of police duties. There remain still studying in the same school the following numbers:—Peking Students 8, Hunan Students 18, Szechuan Students 27, Hupeh Students 53, and Kiangsu Students 20. Total 126.

Parts of the City were flooded on the 31st May by the deluge of rain, the drains in the low lying areas being unable to cope with the rush of water. The water at Arsenal Street, for instance, was quite four feet deep and Major-General Villiers-Hatton was conveyed in a boat to the stairs leading up to Head Quarters. A retaining wall at Mr. M. J. D. Stevens' house on the hill-side collapsed but, considering that it was of red brick instead of the usual rubble, this was not to be wondered at. Portions of Praya East looked more like a canal than anything else. The race course looks like a large lake.

A special correspondent of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, writing to inform us of his return from an extended tour through the Yangtze basin and Szechuan, says: "I returned from Szechuan last week only, after a visit to the coal mines belonging to the Chungking Syndicate. I had a most agreeable trip and saw much of general interest, regarding which I hope to communicate with you shortly. Perhaps, however, the most striking thing I had to notice was the general spread of the policy of ultra-centralisation so dear to the heart of Sir Robert Hart. Doubtless some alleviation of the opposite tendency of leaving everything to the Provincial officers was needed, but the experience of my visit was that it was being carried to a dangerous excess."

Chinese applications are quite possible in the case of the following suggestive little story from *Harper's Weekly*:—American housekeeper to Filipino servant: "Why is it, Ramon, that you worked so well for the Spaniards and for so little? They treat d you badly while I treat you well. They gave you only two pesos per month and you demand of me 25; I do not understand." Ramon: "Ah, senora! The Spaniards were our superiors. You Americans are our equals."

With the commendable motive of raising subscriptions to assist the unfortunate members in the Kangra district, Punjab, India, rendered homeless by the recent earthquake shocks, a meeting of managers of local Indian firms was held at the house of Seth Wassiamull Assomull, at No. 48, Queen's Road, Central. Those present were formed into a committee to canvass for subscriptions, Mr. W. Wassiamull being appointed president, Mr. B. Lekhrag, treasurer, and Mr. K. L. Shuklasina, secretary. To date the following amounts have been collected:—S. W. Assomull, \$101, Poooomull Bros., \$101, S. D. Chellaram, \$101, K. A. J. Chotirmall and Co., \$51, Navalrai Choithram, \$11, G. Varoomal \$11, J. Lekhrag, \$5, D. Kamandas \$11, B. Kubehand, \$11, other subscribers, \$34—total \$437.

A certain desperado of Chüyehsien, Shantung, with a following of over two hundred men, voluntarily surrendered the other day to General Chang Tsung-pen, Major-General of the Yenchow Circuit of Shan'ung province, declaring a desire to reform and to enlist as regular soldiers under the Major-General. The General himself is a native of Shantung and, in view of this act of the desperadoes, favourably reported the matter to the Governor of the province. In order to encourage other bandits and desperadoes to turn over a new leaf in the same manner the Governor promptly ordered the sum of Tls. 1,500 to be paid to the desperadoes as a reward coupled with the hope that whitewashed bandits would use their influence with their friends that were "still out" to follow their example—and gain a reward.—N.-C. D. N.

The following from *Commercial Intelligence* is a timely justification of the new enterprise now being introduced. The American Consul at Hanchau reports to Washington that the field for foreign paper in China is great, in spite of native competition. It is evident, he says, that the prices at which paper of good quality sells are such that American paper manufacturers ought to be able to sell first-class paper at a fair profit. The number of newspapers of all languages printed in China is constantly increasing, and as the increase continues the inability of the natives to manufacture suitable paper in the required quantities at reasonable rates will become more apparent. They simply cannot produce the vast amount of paper consumed in such enterprises with their limited means of manufacture. It is probable that foreign paper manufacturers can even now furnish papers of the sort used in China at lower prices than they are to be had, and with good profit. The native paper dealt in at Hanchau seems to be divided into three grades: (1) Writing paper of the thin Chinese sort, generally coloured on one side; (2) the better grades of wrapping paper, with a fair proportion of rough bamboo papers, and (3) Chinese black paper, used for decoration and other special Chinese purposes.

A CHINA MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

(Daily Press, 30th May.)

The China Manufacturing Company, Limited, is a new undertaking now under promotion at Shanghai, and we draw the attention of investors to the abridged prospectus appearing in another part of this issue. The company, it will be seen, is being formed with a view to extensive development of manufacturing for the large and still growing Chinese market. Beginning with paper, which can be made from almost anything, we are naturally curious to know the nature of this hitherto unused material of which the London experts report so favourably, and of which the new company seems to expect a large, permanent, and cheap supply. For the manufacture of cheap, coarse paper from rice straw, the company should certainly never lack material. That there is "an immense field (for paper) waiting to be exploited" we cannot doubt; and it was probably the realisation of this, as partly illustrated by the heavy imports of foreign paper, that caused recent enquiries to be made by an American syndicate of paper manufacturers who were fully alive to the advantages of producing their goods within the threshold of one of their most important markets. Whether the American scheme has been allowed to remain in abeyance, or is being now prosecuted, we cannot say; but we have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that the conditions are altogether favourable for the prosecution of such enterprise. In the case of the China Manufacturing Company the conditions, so far as the manufacture of paper is concerned, appear particularly so. The company has got favourable expert opinions on actual samples, not only of the new raw material, but of the finished article. It is excellently situated with regard to the necessary materials; and we are told that there is already enquiry being made with a view to buying its output. The manufacture of soap, of glass, and of other manufactures for which there is a large Chinese demand, will follow in due course. In the meantime, only half the capital of one million taels is being called up, and the fact that the vendors accept payment entirely in shares is a good sign, calculated to inspire confidence in the undertaking. The description of the property to be acquired appears in the prospectus. While investors are not advised to reckon too confidently on the estimated twenty per cent dividend, which will depend greatly on the varieties of paper made, and on the out-put being unhampered by labour troubles or other native disturbances, it is a proposal they cannot afford to disregard, as the possibilities, looking a few years ahead, are so enormous. In addition, it is worth noticing how easy are the terms of subscription, which can locally be very conveniently arranged at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

NAVAL ADMIRABLE CRICHTONS.

(Daily Press, 31st May.)

Is it not remarkable that the Japanese should continue to succeed with such remarkable regularity? No single reverse comes to justify the prognostications of those who have been adding up Japan's difficulties. On land, on sea, uniform success is with them, although they have not had the "biggest battalions" that NAPOLEON referred to. There seems to be, if we retain all evidence that has been raked up for us by pro-Russian or anti-Japanese, something almost mysterious about it. Although the Russian army and

navy have both enjoyed the prayerful support of priest and emperor, the pious advice and encouragement of devout officers, and a plentiful supply of ikons, the heathen has been permitted to win all along the line. In the absence of any ghostly councillor to direct our wondering attention to some "inscrutable purpose" in it all, we can but suppose that the Japanese have completely defeated the Russians because they happen to be, among other things, more skilful, more in earnest, more brave, more intelligent, more temperate, more ably officered, and better provided with the needful stores of food, gear, and accoutrements. In the beginning, when we had been reminding the Japanese that "thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just," there was some apparent reason for telling us that, at the first naval attack on Port Arthur, Japan had illustrated the correctness of the familiar paraphrase which accords superior might to him "that gets his blow in fust." That was, indeed, a shrewd first blow, but the Japanese navy has shown us that it does not depend for success upon a knack of dealing blows only at an unready enemy. Admiral UGRU's task at Chemulpo on February 8th, 1904, was comparatively easy. Admiral Togo's torpedo attack at Port Arthur on the same day was not; but we will make allowance for Russia's claim that her naval men were caught unprepared. It is nonsense, of course; they ought to have been ready, knowing that war was knocking at the door; but, for the sake of argument, let us admit that not yet had the Japanese navy done anything wonderful. Does Russian naval history contain anything finer than the destroyer attack in the blizzard of February 14th? Admiral KAMIMURA's bombardment of Vladivostock on March 6th may not have done much, but it was doing something. The Russian navy had its chance to revenge MAKAROFF's death on April 14th, but it preferred to stay under the port guns. The Vladivostock squadron sank a few Japanese junks and unarmed steamers; but until this, last Saturday, the naval losses of Japan were accidental only, cases like the *Hatsuse*; the Russians, whose pompous Armada is now meeting the fate of its historic Spanish prototype, have done absolutely nothing to prove their title to the prestige they once claimed. The first Russian fleet made several sorties from Port Arthur and, according to the chroniclers, was "driven back with loss." That is wrong. They were not driven back: they scuttled back. The Russian sailor dies for his country very much to the same extent that the modern Christian gives up all that he hath. There is an important reservation. He construes "all that he hath" to mean "all that he hath to spare"; and in the Russian anxiety to save something from the wreck may be discovered some explanation of Japan's consistent success at sea. Really, it is remarkable how little the Russian naval forces have done. Search through any of the numerous diaries of the war, and there is no record of anything but successful attacks on merchant craft, and remarkably successful "evasions" of armed flotillas. This last naval reverse of Russia's is a bigger one than that of August 10th, when Togo scattered the Port Arthur fleet like chaff. It was three days later that Admiral ROZHDESTVENSKY assumed command of the fleet that, with its reinforcements, has now met a like humiliating fate, after dilly-dallying for eight months and a half on its eager voyage towards the enemy. The Japanese naval man has shown that he can fight with patience as well as dash. What it must have cost Togo and his officers mentally

while they waited at the place appointed for their dawdling foes we shall never know; but they must have suffered agonies of impatience. The pregnant sentence with which the simple, conservative official report concludes indicates that the great Russian Armada has entered a fatal web. "The naval engagement is still in progress." "It will take sometime before the final results can be known." In detail, no doubt, that is so; but broadly speaking, the final result cannot we think, be anything less than the total extinction for a long time of Russia as a naval power. "No damage to our ships was sustained." It will probably also be learned in due time that this remarkable statement is substantially and finally correct. If Japan loses no more ships by those horrid floating mines, ROZHDESTVENSKY is unlikely to rob her of any. The end of the war will most probably find Japan's navy, not only as strong as ever it was, but considerably augmented and enriched by some of the valuable ships that Russia has just sent out to the East, "regardless of expense"; and, it must be added, regardless of several other things.

CURRENCY DOUBTS.

(Daily Press 1st June.)

There is a point in connection with the currency in countries which have a mixed gold and silver circulation, which has not been adverted upon in the many discussions which have taken place on the subject, but which may be of considerable importance in connection with the suggested establishment of a gold standard in China. In places where the actual standard is gold but in which, at the same time, there is a large silver currency, the latter, if there is a continuous fall in the value of the white metal, ceases to become a coin properly speaking and takes the position—to use the term frequently adopted—of a "token." The essential element of a coin, according to recognised principles, is that the intrinsic value of the metal in its uncoined state should be of the face value of the coin. This point is dealt with with admirable clearness by STUART MILL, in his "Political Economy," and the principles which he there sets forth have never been called in question. It is somewhat noticeable that in all the controversies that have taken place in respect to the relative value of silver and gold, no reference has been made to the important bearing which the decline of silver has, not only upon Eastern Exchanges, but also upon the currency of Great Britain itself. The amount of silver which is in circulation is a great factor in the British monetary system; and the plain fact remains that its intrinsic value is really only about one half of its face value. To place British coinage upon an absolutely sound basis the amount of silver in all the subsidiary coins ought in strictness to be doubled. The sixpence ought to be as large as the shilling; the shilling as large as the florin; the half crown as big as the old crown-piece. To put the coinage upon this footing would involve an enormous expense to Government, and it is not surprising that the most rigid economists have not thought it desirable to raise the question of adopting such a step. So long as the credit of the British Government stands—as let us hope it always may stand—unimpeachable—no difficulty arises; but it is well that the true state of the fact should be grasped, and that is, that the value of the subordinate coins depends not upon the worth of the metal of which they are composed, but upon the certainty that they can always be exchanged

for gold at their recognised value as fractional parts of the gold sovereign. So long as the credit of the Government in this respect is beyond dispute the silver coin is as good as gold coin representing the same fraction—in other words ten silver shillings are as good as the ten-shilling gold piece or half sovereign. If, however, any doubt arises as to its being absolutely possible to exchange the silver coins for their nominal value in gold, a very different state of matters will at once arise. This is never likely to be the case in Great Britain, or in any country whose monetary credit stands high; but it might easily take place in a country like China, where a very different state of affairs exists. The best that could be established in China would be a mixed silver and gold coinage; and the exchangeability of the silver coin for the gold at a fixed rate might become problematical, with the necessary result of a further depreciation of silver as compared with gold, which might have serious effects upon mercantile transactions and international finance.

It is, therefore, a question whether with a Government like that of China, the adoption of a gold currency would be attended with unqualified advantage. In itself it would be, no doubt, highly desirable but, at the same time, the manner in which it might be introduced would have to be carefully considered; and it cannot be denied that there are just reasons for doubt whether such a step might not be attended with trouble. The mass of the Chinese are so accustomed to "cash" and, at most, dollars, that these would continue, the medium to a large extent; and if the dollar, or other similar silver coin, were kept at a fixed ratio in respect to gold, the question might at a given time arise as to its actually being convertible at such rate. If two currencies—one silver and one gold—ran side by side, the requirements of trade might possibly be fairly met but, in such case, there would often be the same inconvenience to meet, that is familiar in respect to dollars and taels, and which has often been felt as extremely troublesome in mercantile dealings; while there is always the possibility that if a gold currency ran simultaneously with a recognised silver standard, the silver, under certain circumstances (as the least stable medium) would become greatly depressed—so that the evil which it is desired to overcome, would remain practically unchecked. That China has through all the ages of her existence, never been able to establish any other standard than the copper cash is a significant circumstance in connection with a nation of such strong commercial instincts; and the fact is to be accounted for only by the distrust which the mercantile classes and the people at large entertain towards the Government in regard to coinage. It is, of course, reasonable to hope that this state of things is somewhat modified in the present day; but still it cannot be entirely overlooked. If steps could be taken gradually to introduce a gold coinage entirely independent of silver, the two running side by side, possibly some good might result, and the way be paved for further improvement in the future. In such case the gold currency would be used for large mercantile transactions and the cash and dollars continue as at present in use for smaller matters. It is, however, a question which must be carefully considered; whether it would be wise to urge the Chinese to introduce a gold currency in any other way until the Chinese Government showed itself of a more stable and reliable character in such matters than it has proved itself up to the present time.

CHINA'S POTENTIAL MILITARISM.

(Daily Press, 2nd June.)

At the opening of the Russo-Japanese war, when speculation was rife as to how far the Japanese could hold their own against Russia in military matters, it was pointed out by the Military Correspondent of the *Times* that it had always been assumed that the Chinese had been a contemptible foe in the war between them and Japan, but that this assumption had possibly been made without any very solid basis, and that it might prove that it was a mistaken conclusion, and that the Chinese were in reality a much more formidable enemy than had been generally believed. The comparative ease with which the Chinese were defeated by the Japanese, combined with what was then known of them in former wars, led naturally to this conclusion, but events which have since happened again raise considerable doubt as to its correctness.

All we know of the Chinese would lead to the conclusion that they are quite unable to fight in the way the Japanese fight. If there were no other reason for this, there is a want of real patriotism amongst them which would always prevent such fervour, as the Japanese have so conspicuously displayed, from arising. Moral as well as physical qualities are required to win battles and to carry on a difficult campaign; and there is no moral force comparable to a true devotion to country and government. In this, however, the Chinese have always been conspicuously deficient and, unless some quite unforeseen change should arise, it may reasonably be assumed they will continue to be wanting in true patriotism for many years to come.

At the same time it is not to be overlooked that China, under certain circumstances, might become a formidable adversary. Alone, she is likely to be able to do little, but in combination with a nation such as Japan, possessing real *esprit de corps*, she might prove very different to what she has been under half-hearted and in many cases corrupt leaders. There is no position in which it is more true that a little leaven leavens the whole than that of an army in the field. The manner in which NAPOLEON inspired his soldiers the instant he took the field is a good illustration of this and there have been many instances in our history where British dash and pluck have made good soldiers out of very unpromising native material. In China itself we had an illustration of this in GORDON'S "Invincible Army." Although, in its later days, it owed very much to the prestige which it had acquired, there is no doubt that Gordon succeeded in making his Chinese troops perform feats which it would have been impossible for them to attempt if not inspired by their leader. In the same way it is likely that, under Japanese direction, Chinese troops would prove very different from what they have been hitherto, and it is by no means unlikely that this may before long be put to practical test. Already the Chinese have called in Japanese military teachers in many directions; and it is probable that the Japanese, in their own interests, will reconstruct much of the Chinese military system in Manchuria, with a view of enabling China to hold her own there, which is one of the things which Japan recognises essential to the preservation of peace. Under such conditions, the Chinese would be able to hold their own there with little difficulty. Without, therefore, interfering with Chinese jurisdiction, the Japanese will probably find it necessary to keep sufficient

"military police" in Manchuria to preserve and to make a renewal of the encroachments of Russia an impossibility.

There is every likelihood that something of this kind will be organised both in Korea and also in Manchuria. The former has practically acquiesced in such an arrangement and there are indications, from what has been done at Mukden, that China will be willing to follow suit in what will be substantially a similar arrangement differing, possibly, in form and name. As long, however, as Chinese authority is recognised in Manchuria, China will not be too nice as to submitting to the protection of some other Power. By this time she must be fully aware of her inability to protect this part of her Empire herself; and, if an arrangement with Japan can be come to by which she can save her "face" and still preserve her territorial authority, she will probably look with complacency upon the military Power being in Japanese hands; and will be willing to place against any loss of prestige, which such an arrangement might be considered to involve, the material security which it will undoubtedly provide.

How far European nations may be disposed to acquiesce in such an arrangement is a question of some nicety. If China could be relied upon to protect herself no doubt they would much prefer to see her have complete control in Manchuria. But past experience makes it manifest to the most sanguine that she could not be counted upon to hold her own; and that if Manchuria were restored to her without some form of military protection, it would only be a question of time for the state of affairs to arise again. When Russia had recovered from the effects of the war, she would cast eyes in the old direction, and endeavour to carry out her traditional policy of encroachment. Under the circumstances the best thing that can happen, at all events for some years, is that the Japanese should in some way protect Manchuria. Possibly, in the course of time, China may be able to do this herself, and Japan would be glad to be relieved of the responsibility. The moral position of China, it must be remembered, would become much stronger when once she had come into line with European nations and the United States in opposing the advance of Russia. It is hardly likely that those who have hitherto been disposed to favour Russian aggression in China will be inclined to continue such a policy after the lesson that the Japanese taught them; and, if only there is unanimity on this subject, the chances of success of any aggressive action on the part of Russia will be so much diminished that China may be able to take care of herself and once more resume the full control over Manchuria which, if Russia had kept her promises, ought long ago to have been restored to her.

Plague is present in epidemic form at Hongkong. In recording the official figures, without comment, there is no "sensationalism." As a matter of fact, it has been much worse in former years; but it is nonsense to holloa until we are out of the wood. The season is not half over yet, and a bigger jump than usual on Tuesday brought the total number of cases up to 105 (now 109.) Six out of Tuesday's seven cases were fatal. So long as there are Chinese in Hongkong, so long will there be plague, unless the authorities have the pluck and power to do as Japan does—to burn down whole infected areas. The Chinese, and some others, cannot be persuaded to report the presence of rats. All that the Government can manage under present conditions is a partial remedy, that is evidently "scotching" the disease, but not abolishing it.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on the 1st inst. There were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

H. E. MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS-HATTON, C. B. (General Officer Commanding the Troops).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY, K.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART.

Hon. Mr. W. C. DICKSON.

Hon. Mr. R. SHEWAN.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I beg to bring up report of the Financial Committee No. 2, and propose its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and it was carried.

NEW TERRITORIES LAND ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—Sir, I rise to move the second reading of the bill, entitled, An Ordinance to facilitate the transfer of land in the New Territories and for settling disputes in respect thereof and for other purposes. Since its recent introduction here everything has been so well stated that it is hardly necessary for me to say anything further. Certainly I have nothing further to recommend to the house regarding this bill. The bill is designed to make more easy the transfer of land in the New Territory with small holders who are for the most part of the poorer class. With that object the bill provides for the establishment in the New Territory of district offices for land officers and a land registration office in Hongkong. And the bill provides short, clear, simple forms of conveyances and other forms of documents dealing with the transfer and mortgage of landed property. In order to make the necessary resource to courts of law as inexpensive as possible certain jurisdiction is conferred by the bill on the land officer who is empowered to decide any small question and settle disputes which arise between land holders in the New Territory. There is no question upon which more disputes arise than questions of landed interests, and necessarily so in a new territory. It is with the object to enable them to be dealt with satisfactorily quickly, cheaply, easily and summarily that this bill has been drawn up, as is set out in the clauses. The court has taken steps at the same time to review the decisions of the land officer who will be entrusted. Power is given to allow appeal to the Supreme Court in certain cases, from the decision of the land officer relating to titles of claim, and also special cases may, by special leave of the officer, be tried in the Supreme Court. If the officer refuses to allow appeal the holder may obtain special leave from the Supreme Court to appeal. As it is possible that there may be some owners in the New Territory who are not inclined to take advantage of the advantages referred to in this Bill the Governor may exempt any property from operation of this Ordinance. I move the reading of the bill for a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I am sorry I cannot agree with the Hon. Attorney General's remark that the objects and reasons were perfectly plain. The Bill before us purports to be a bill to facilitate the transfer of land in the New Territory, but is also a bill to give the Governor power, without any restrictions, to grant exemption to Crown Lessees on any terms he shall think fit. In other words we are supposed to be passing

an Ordinance but are leaving it all to the discretion of the Governor. In the objects and reasons for this Bill it is stated that some owners will prefer to hold under the usual law of the Colony. Undoubtedly they will but why should this not be exactly provided for instead of being left entirely to the Governor? We seem to be making one law for the rich and another for the poor, and the Governor's discretion must give rise to hear burnings and jealousies. The objects and reasons read to me very curiously. It says: "As some owners in the New Territories will probably prefer to hold under the usual law of the Colony." Who are the owners who are as good as to prefer the usual law of the Colony, and who are those others for whom it is not good enough? The functions of us unofficial members are, I know, of no avail against the Government's fixed majority of officials who, I believe, are bound to vote with the Government and are not allowed consciences of their own, but to make us pass such a vague Ordinance as this is reducing us to absolute nonentities. The Government cannot pride itself on its dealings with land in the New Territory, for it has already made a painful exhibition of its own incapacity and greed by bringing in a bill to reverse the verdict of its own Land Court, and actually made the Bill retroactive to deprive a poor Chinaman of land which the Government's own Land Court had granted him after a careful hearing. If that be a fair specimen of our boasted British justice, then British justice must be a very poor thing, indeed. It was just another case of Naboth's Vineyard, only that Ahab was not such a hypocrite as to try to justify himself by making a new law to cover his misdeeds. Now we are asked to pass a measure which, if in the hands of incompetent or unscrupulous officials, would only make confusion worse confounded and leave the door open for grave abuses. I think the Building Ordinance had some such clause, and what has been the result? If ever a Bill has been more honoured in the breach than in the observance it is that Bill. We were told *ad nauseam* that houses must not be higher than one and a half times the width of the street, but look at the size of the houses that have since been built, and the amusing part of it is that the very sanitary expert for whom the Government specially made a place on the Council that he might drive it through with the weight of his authority, now sits as Head of the Sanitary Board, and merrily grants dispensations to all and sundry to break its provisions.

Hon. Mr. MAY—I rise to a point of order.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I am trying to point out what happens when that right is given to the Governor or the Sanitary Board or some such authority. Now the very man who, made the law now sits and recommends the Government to bring a fresh ordinance to break it. That may happen here. I will not continue if you think I am out of order. Such bills are a travesty of legislation to be brought here, and made to pass such laws by a majority which is compelled to vote with the Government and knows not nor cares anything about them. I oppose the Bill because instead of stating clearly on what terms the Government propose to exempt Crown Lessees from its provisions it renders null and void all its provisions by leaving them to be modified on any terms the Government thinks fit. Everyone should be equal before the law, and the law should be applied equally to everyone, but in this Colony it seems that anyone with influence who gets a law modified can get it altered in his favour by applying to the Sanitary Board or some other authority. Such bills are not legislation. What is the use of laws if you do not enforce them strictly and impartially, and what is the use of a law which, after providing over 48 different clauses, leaves it to the Governor to abrogate them all on such terms as he shall think fit.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—The only objection raised by the Hon. Member opposite seems to be to a certain clause in the Bill.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I object to the principle.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—The principle of the Bill is stated to facilitate the dealing with land in the New Territories, but I understand the Hon. Member opposite objected to one clause in sub-section 4 of section 1, which gives the Government power to exempt any landowner, for good reasons, who wishes to be placed under the usual law of the Colony.

That is, of course, in one section, and I think it quite competent for him, while approving the principle of the Bill, to bring forward that objection in Committee and have it altered or expanded altogether. As far as the principle of the Bill is concerned, it is constituted clearly to facilitate the transfer or mortgage of land in the New Territory, and on this principle the Bill is, I think, extremely sound, forasmuch as the small holders which preponderate in the New Territory would be presumed not to wish to incur any very great expenses or spend too much time or trouble in going to law over land valued at a few hundred dollars. Besides, by paying the usual fees and charges which obtain in the Colony in effecting transfers of properties and mortgages, the sum left to the present holder would be very small, indeed. So therefore, Sir, I say that a law which will facilitate matters and save money, time and trouble to peasant landholders is worthy of the support of this Council. And as a member legislating for the Chinese, I assure you, Sir, it has a very beneficent effect upon the holders of property in the New Territory. Now, we know very well that holders of property in the New Territory have been accustomed to hold land from the Chinese Government, and have no executed plan of their hold, and constantly you will find that some of them have got feet, sometimes yards, I won't say miles, but certainly yards, encroaching upon the property of others. In these sort of disputes; where the property is worth a few dollars—may be \$100—it is absurd to expect that these men should be able to come over to Hongkong and take the case up to the Supreme Court, employing lawyers, and possibly counsel, when the cost for settlement of the dispute may be quite as much, if not twice or three times as expensive as the worth of the land. It is the principle of this bill to do away with the hardships of peasant proprietors, and I say it is worthy of the support of this council. I quite admit, Sir, that there are several points in the Ordinance that require more careful and further consideration, and possibly we shall have to consider whether an amendment of such provisions is necessary or not; but that we can do afterwards. So far as the principle of the Bill is concerned, I say that I, and I believe my colleague, most heartily support it inasmuch as we believe that if the Bill is passed and the provisions properly carried out, it will confer a decided boon on small land holders in the New Territory. Besides, it will, no doubt, give them great satisfaction and secure their confidence in the administration of justice in a British Colony.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK—I quite concur with what my colleague has said.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, it is to be regretted, I think, that the Hon. Member who opposed the Bill should have poured out his phials of wrath without first asking the meaning of the sub-section which is so obnoxious to him, but it is possible, Sir, that it may have been a pleasure to him to find a peg on which to hang the accusations of incompetency and unscrupulousness against the officers who are going to administer the Bill.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Sir, I rise to order. Have I made any charge of incompetency or accused anybody of being incompetent or unscrupulous?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I am using your own words.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I said "who might"

HIS EXCELLENCY—You said "who might and will."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Unless they are incompetent your remarks are not to the point.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I was looking to the future.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—He also, Sir, accused the Council of passing legislation—

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—I certainly rise to order, and object to the word "accuse." Did I accuse anybody?

HIS EXCELLENCY—So nearly that I cannot appreciate any difference.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Very nearly, but I did not accuse.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The Hon. Member referred to recent legislation on land as inequitable and unjust. That, sir, I say is not the case. The legislation gave power to appeal

to the highest court in the Colony, and if the Government was successful on that appeal it only argues solid reason for taking that measure. It will, perhaps, console the Hon. Member if I explain to him that words "on such terms as they shall think fit" really mean "in such cases." It is not proposed that the peasant proprietors in the New Territory should as a body be exempted from the operations of this Bill, but certain proprietors acquired land recently in the New Territory, and in such cases, when these proprietors desire, they can come under the existing law of the Colony. There is not the slightest doubt that the Governor-in-Council will take their applications into consideration.

On the motion for the second reading of the Bill being put, Hon. Mr. Shewan was the only dissentient, and the Bill was read a second time.

THE SUGAR CONVENTION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill, entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Sugar Convention Ordinance of 1904." He said Hon. Members will remember that last year an order was made giving effect to the convention which most of the powers of the world are parties to relating to sugar. In respect of such as is bounty fed an Ordinance was passed by this council, but in the course of working of that Ordinance it became eventually necessary to amend it in some slight way. The object of this Bill is to effect amendments. These objects will be carried out by special conditions which will be made.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion, which was carried.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, council resolved itself into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

No amendments were made and on council again resuming, the Bill was read a second time and passed.

THE VAGRANCY ACT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I rise to ask council to read for a second time a Bill, entitled, "An Ordinance to amend the Vagrancy Ordinance, 1897." This is a measure in which I think we have been successful in grappling and dealing with a difficult question which has agitated the community for sometime past and which must in some measure irritate or disturb or affect it for sometime. The object is to stop as far as we can the vagrancy of able bodied men, and with this object it is proposed to alter in some respect the conditions under which vagrants are at present permitted to reside in the House of Detention. It is believed that the way they are treated there, and the unlimited liberty by day which is accorded them is not such as to discourage the very class of men who do not need encouragement to go there. The Bill therefore takes the power to pass regulations affecting the dietary of these persons while in the house of detention, placing them upon a different footing than heretofore and giving power to make them labour neither of which will be hankered after, as it were, by the vagrant, who will be obliged to put up with it. The Bill also provides for the amendment of the present Ordinance in respect of liability, which now rests upon masters to bring men into the Colony who become a charge on the Colony. The present law does not accomplish this. It also leaves the shipmaster in a position of doubt and difficulty. He has to make up his mind as to whether a man on landing has sufficient means of subsistence. In order to relieve the shipmaster from this difficulty and cast upon him a proper responsibility, he is told plainly by the proposed Ordinance not to land any person who has not at the time the sum of \$50. If a man is landed here and becomes a vagrant, a reasonable time after landing, the master will have to satisfy a magistrate that the man had \$50 at the time of landing. I think, however, this Bill is likely to do what we wish in respect of keeping away from this Colony the class of persons who are of no use whatever to it. I move that council resolve itself into a committee of the whole council to take the clauses of the Bill into consideration.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—Is that \$50 in cash, Sir, or in property?

HIS EXCELLENCY—\$50 in cash.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The clause means money. He must be possessed of \$50.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—He might have £50.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The dollar is the currency here, but a man might have fifty doubloons or fifty napoleons.

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN—And you wouldn't let him land, would you?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Oh, yes.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—A man coming from a foreign place might not be able to get fifty Hongkong dollars.

Hon. Mr. DICKSON—I would point out that this clause fixes no limit of time for the liability attaching to masters of steamers. A man might spend \$50 in a month and become a vagrant after that.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I don't think the Hon. Member quite appreciates the meaning of the clause as it stands now. If a man becomes a vagrant two days after he lands, so long as he had \$50 at the time of landing the shipping master cannot be held liable.

Mr. DICKSON moved as an amendment that clause 22 be altered to read "within two months."

Hon. Mr. SHEWAN seconded the motion. A ship cannot be expected to keep her accounts open for more than two or three months, and if she sails there is no opportunity of obtaining the money.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The Government is prepared to admit the words "within two months of landing."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—If left as it is framed, it would be much better for shipowners. If a magistrate were satisfied that a man has means when he came to the Colony he would dismiss the application.

The amendment was agreed to, and council on resuming, adjourned until Thursday, 8th instant.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on the 30th May. Dr. F. Clark (President) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice President), Major Josling, Dr. Pearce, Mr. A. W. Brewin, Mr. H. E. Pollock, Mr. F. J. Badeley, Mr. A. Rumjahn, and Mr W. Bowen-Rowlands (Secretary).

HONGKONG HOTEL APPLICATION.

AN EXTENSION BUILDING

An application from Messrs. Palmer and Turner, acting on behalf of the Hongkong Hotel Company, was considered. Extracts from the application for a modification of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance are as follows:—

"The Company ask as follows:—

"(1) Section 188, Sub-Section 5.—That the building may exceed 76 feet in height, i.e. that the average height of the front may be 104 feet.

"(2) That the building may exceed four storeys in height, i.e. that it may be six storeys high.

"(3) Section 180, Sub-Section A.—That a modification of Sub-Section 1 may be recommended by the Board as regards the ground and first floors as follows:—The site contains an approximate area of 20,580 square feet, of which 5,145 square feet to be given up as open space. The plan proposed will be as follows:—

Area open space ground floor 3,640 sq. feet.

" " " " first " 4,240 "

" " " " all floors above 5,500 "

"From the plan it will be seen at a glance that although the new block is higher (than the existing buildings) there is no comparison, between old and new blocks as to amount of light and air which will be obtained in every room of the new scheme. The new plan shows 84 bed-rooms. Allowing for two persons occupying each room (which is very improbable) making 168, and four servants to each upper floor, 16, this means a total of 184, at the outside, are likely to occupy the building for sleeping

purposes. It cannot, therefore, be said there is any question of surface crowding, for presuming the ground was going to be laid out for the erection of Chinese houses and that they were erected to the height allowed, viz., four storeys, we estimate that sufficient houses could be put on the ground, so that allowing 50 feet supplied to each person the three top floors only of such houses would accommodate over 500 people.

"Neither the ground floor nor the first floor is intended to be used for sleeping purposes. The ground floor consists almost entirely of European shops. The first floor is to consist of dining, billiard and reception rooms for hotel purposes."

M. O. H. minuted:—I cannot recommend that the building be allowed to exceed 76 feet in height. It must be remembered that one side of the building is in Queen's Road Central and that this might be taken into consideration as it is narrower than Pedder's Street. The effect of a very high building on the lighting of neighbouring houses is an important point and should be considered when deciding under Sec. 189 (2) the point at which the height of the building is to be measured for the purposes of Sec. 188.

The very high buildings when compared with the narrow streets running between them in this portion of the City are certainly not achievements of which the Sanitary Board can be proud.

I have no objection to offer to the proposed modification, if the open space requirement under Sec. 180 allows, and if the scale of open space for the different floors suggested by Messrs. Palmer and Turner is adhered to.

The President minuted:—The houses in Queen's Road Central, which will be overshadowed, are shops and offices and I do not think there is any serious Sanitary objection to the plan as submitted. I think the Board justified in considering the question of the demand for housing accommodation for Europeans in this Colony which is in excess of the supply and, on these grounds, approving of the plan of extension to the hotel.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted:—I agree with the M.O.H. that the building must not exceed 76 feet in height. Most of the offices in Queen's Road, opposite the hotel, are now pretty dark and if the height of the hotel is increased it will shut off more light from these offices. Queen's Road is only 50 feet wide, and the maximum height of a building fronting thereon can only be 75 feet. I should like the President to prove that the demand for the accommodation of Europeans is in excess of the supply. A reference to the advertising columns of the *Daily Press* of the number of houses to be let would dispel any doubt on this point.

Registrar General minuted:—How long will the houses in Queen's Road, which are to be overshadowed, remain offices? It is the demand for European houses in certain neighbourhoods only that is in excess of the supply.

The President again minuted:—In reply to Mr. Rumjahn it is not proposed to grant the building on Queen's Road but on Pedder Street which is 72 feet wide, and 1½ times this equals 108 feet [see Sec. 188 (3) of P. H. & B. O.]. I think the public has a right to expect the Board to be consistent in a matter of this sort and, hitherto, the 76 feet rule has never been enforced in the cases of hotels and large blocks of offices in the strictly business portion of the City.

The PRESIDENT—The question is whether the new Hongkong Hotel shall be allowed to exceed 76 feet in height. It is not customary to limit such buildings to 76 feet but it is quite within the Board's power. With reference to demand and supply, I mean to say houses within the means of people. I was referring to the case of young people with incomes of from three to five thousand dollars, who cannot afford to pay two to three thousand dollars for house rent. No houses within their means are available, and that is why they crowd to hotels.

Mr. POLLOCK—Where are these new premises?

The PRESIDENT—The original Hongkong Hotel building looking over Queen's Road. It is desired to re-construct it.

Mr. POLLOCK—How much higher?

The PRESIDENT—The same height as the new hotel.

Mr. RUMJAHN—With regard to the reply to my minute I still hold that you are wrong. I know at present that one hotel, Hotel America, has had to shut up, and also a boarding house in Ice House Street. Some weeks ago an application for permission to erect a five story hotel at Kowloon was considered. It fronted on Robinson Road, 100 feet wide, and the Board refused the application because the building would obscure light from others. And this erection fronts Queen's Road.

The PRESIDENT—It does not front Queen's Road.

Mr. RUMJAHN—It abuts, then, on to Queen's Road which is fifty feet wide and the houses on both sides have verandahs which take up 20ft. more space. The height of the building will be, therefore, on Queen's Road side three times greater than the width of the road, and the same remarks apply in a lesser degree to Pedder Street. The structure would take off very much more light from the surrounding buildings. We are asked to-day to allow an infringement on the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, and close our eyes to injury to surrounding buildings. I oppose the application.

The M. O. H.—When the plan came in I was struck by the fact that the maker had been very careful not to show a front door in Queen's Road—a cute way of getting out of the difficulty—and, for all our purposes, the building does front on to Queen's Road. The neighbouring houses should be considered.

REGISTRAR GENERAL (Hon. Mr. Brewin)—I am prepared to second Mr. Rumjahn's resolution, though this building does not technically front Queen's Road side. It is practically the same here, though, as on Pedder Street. Regarding the question of houses for Europeans I do not think we should let that into the consideration, or I do not know where we should find ourselves landed. I am seconding because we should be consistent and, having refused the hotel application from Kowloon which was a more open locality than Queen's Road, I think we should adhere to that now.

The PRESIDENT—One point strikes me, just, because this happens to be a corner house with a narrow street on one side it is penalised.

Mr. Rumjahn's motion was lost by four against two.

The President moved the application be granted, and this was carried by four to two. Mr. Pollock did not vote.

ANTHRAX AT KENNEDY TOWN.

Mr. Adam Gibson, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, reported by letter that a case of anthrax occurred in the Kennedy Town Cattle Depot on the 23rd May. The animal came into the depot along with 36 others from Wu Chow via Canton. It was seen coming into the depot by Inspector Cotton and was noticeably ill. It was placed in the isolation shed and died shortly afterwards. The shed has been disinfected and the in-contact animals isolated.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The Mortality statistics for the 5th May, death rate per thousand per annum, showed the following figures:—British and Foreign Civil Population, 9.9; previous week, 24.9; corresponding week last year, 25.7. Chinese population, 18.1; previous week, 20.9; corresponding week last year, 20.4.

LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The Limewashing Return for the fortnight ended 23rd May showed that 3,534 houses were limewashed in the Central District, and 3,762 in the Western District.

RAT RETURN.

The Rat Return for the week ended 27th May showed that 399 (32 infected) were caught in the City of Victoria, and 161 (13 infected) in Kowloon.

On May 17th a Japanese steam launch armed with a machine gun returned to Newchwang from a successful pirate-hunting expedition extending over three days. The launch encountered a Chinese pirate fleet at sea, and made such effective use of her machine gun that the pirates were almost entirely annihilated. Two guns and a number of rifles and swords were captured.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Monday, 29th May.

BEFORE MR. F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

IN THE MATTER OF WONG KA CHEONG.

His Honour the Chief Justice yesterday delivered judgment on the preliminary points raised in the matter of the extradition of Wong Ka-cheong. Mr. Hugh Norman Ferrers, instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared for the accused, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. A. Harding, for the Chinese Government.

His Honour said:—The procedure in this case is in a state of some confusion: this, however, is not to be wondered at, for there appear to have been few occasions in this Colony for its consideration in the Supreme Court: and practically the same confusion seems to have reigned in England before the practice was finally settled by the Judges: even now the practice can only be ascertained by carefully comparing the different decisions.

Wong Ka-cheong was arrested on 3rd March on a warrant issued by the Magistrate under the Chinese Extradition Ordinance No 7 of 1889 the intimation from H.E. the Governor of a requisition having been received from the Chinese Government for the man's extradition was forwarded subsequently as required by the Ordinance. On the application of the prisoner by his counsel a writ of habeas corpus was granted by Mr. Justice Sercombe Smith on 23rd inst. The writ having been made returnable on Saturday, 27th, Mr. Ferrers moved for the discharge of the prisoner on the ground that the return was a bad return. Mr. Pollock, K.C., appeared on behalf of the Chinese Government. He took a preliminary objection that the Puisne Judge should have granted a rule nisi, and not an absolute rule for the issue of the habeas corpus. To this Mr. Ferrers objected that the Chinese Government had no locus standi: the precise terms of this objection were that the Chinese Government had no right to appear in the proceedings connected with the habeas corpus; the only parties entitled to appear being the prisoner and the Crown. Notice was served on the Chinese Government of the application for the writ: but not of the motion for discharge of the prisoner. On this preliminary point of practice, assuming that a second notice is necessary, I am of opinion that a party who has not been served with notice, and not before the Court, cannot bring himself into the proceedings in this manner. His proper course is to apply to the Court by independent motion on which the question whether he was entitled to notice, and so entitled to appear in the proceedings, can be argued. This has the advantage of keeping the main question in the case free from this independent issue, which may be an important matter, as in this case, whether the Chinese Government has any locus standi in extradition proceedings. In the present case this is the more important, because Mr. Pollock's motion amounted in effect to an appeal from Mr. Justice Smith's order, a point which clogs, so to speak, every question raised before me. But the fundamental principles of extradition being, as I think, involved in this question, in spite of the apparent irregularity of this motion, it was to the manifest convenience of all parties that I should hear what Mr. Pollock had to urge in favour of his contention that a rule nisi should have been granted and not an absolute order for the issue of the writ: it will, moreover, enable me to settle the practice for the future.

Putting the Chinese Government out of the question for the moment, and treating Mr. Pollock as *amicus curiæ* (as he himself suggested), he called my attention to the case of *B. v. Ganz* (9 Q. B. D. p. 93), in which precisely the same practice had been adopted as by Mr. Justice Smith in this case: i.e., a rule absolute for the habeas corpus had been issued in the first instance, and not a rule nisi to shew cause.

The footnote to the case in the Law Reports is as follows:—

"In point of fact a rule absolute in the first instance for a writ of habeas corpus had been

"previously granted, and the writ issued. The prisoner was brought up in custody on the return, but the Attorney General at the commencement of the argument pointed out that the practice in matters of this sort had since 1873 been to obtain a rule nisi for a habeas corpus, and argue the case on the rule, and that such practice was far more convenient. He also stated that the points on which the prisoner's counsel wished to rely would not be available to him on the return to the writ which was on the face of it perfectly good. It was, therefore, agreed that the matter should be argued as if the prisoner's counsel were now moving for a rule nisi on affidavits, and the Crown shewing cause against such rule. It is reported accordingly."

The argument before me then proceeded on the basis of a similar agreement: although the proceedings in that case and this cannot have been precisely the same, for the motion before the Queen's Bench Division appears to have been an application for a writ of habeas corpus, the writ having been already granted: whereas in this case the motion is for the discharge of the prisoner made on the return of a writ already granted. There is a question to be ultimately argued in this case, that the return is on the face of it bad: whereas in *Ganz's* case the return was on the face of it good. But the principle underlying the agreement come to in the English case is applicable to the present case: i.e., there should be an opportunity for a full argument of the matter before the Court. This brings me to another question of procedure. There has already been one argument, and it is quite clear from what Mr. Ferrers has said, that the argument before this Court proceeds on the same lines as that presented to Mr. Justice Smith. In answer to my question, Mr. Ferrers pointed out, and rightly, that this was not an appeal from the Puisne Judge's decision. He in fact obtained what he wanted. The motion now before the Court is entirely different; it is to set aside the return to the writ already granted. But the same question arises, and it might be that my views should differ from those of the learned Judge who has already given a decision in the matter. This motion, therefore, like that made by Mr. Pollock, savours very much of an appeal from Mr. Justice Smith's order. The manifest inconvenience of two different Courts hearing the same argument in two motions, the second of which is not an appeal from the first, has, like the former point, been dealt with in England. In *re de Portugal* (the Weekly Reporter reports is fuller than that of the Law Reports) Mr. Justice Day gives a very strong judgment to the effect that in such proceedings there must be only one argument.

His judgment begins as follows:—

"Mr. Justice Day—I regret that I was not a member of the Court which gave judgment in this case yesterday, but I am now in entire possession of the grounds on which it was delivered. That court heard a full argument from both sides. Now, on the application that the prisoner be discharged further arguments have been addressed to us. I cannot help thinking that such a course is a matter of great public inconvenience. It would be very inconvenient if double arguments on the same question came to be allowed. The question raised here, if it was not raised in the former discussion, ought most certainly to have been raised then. For myself I shall in future never allow an argument on the issuing of a habeas corpus unless there be an undertaking that there is to be no further argument. The former practice was for the argument to take place on bringing the prisoner up for discharge, but at the instance of a former Attorney General that course was changed, and the argument now takes place on the application for the writ of habeas corpus. I shall, however, take care that this inconvenience does not occur again."

There are three stages at which argument can arise: on the application for a rule nisi for the habeas corpus; on the motion to make the rule absolute: on a motion to set aside the return, or for the discharge of the prisoner. In *de Portugal's* case the re-argument was presented by the Crown: here it comes from the prisoner. But, as before, the same principle underlies both cases: the same question must be argued once only. And I think that the English practice should prevail, that the argument should take place on the motion to make the

rule absolute. This will not preclude any motion being made with regard to the return as to any matter which may directly arise out of the return, and which could not have been raised on the motion in connection with the issue of the writ.

To apply this principle to the present case. The argument that the return is bad, or rather that the prisoner should be discharged because the warrant is bad, because the warrant does not disclose on the face of it that the prisoner whose extradition is claimed is a subject of China, manifestly involves the same point as the argument that the writ of *habeas corpus* should issue because there is no evidence that the prisoner is a subject of China. This statement of the argument in its two forms clearly shows that the practice established in England is the most convenient, as the question is then less likely to be cumbered with technical points. But as Justice Day pointed out in *de Portugal's* case, the Crown was within its rights; and so here the prisoner is within his rights in raising the same question a second time. It is only necessary to settle the procedure in order to prevent the inconvenience raising a second time. I propose, therefore, to hear, or rather to continue the hearing of Mr. Ferrer's argument in this case, more especially as Mr. Justice Smith himself, unless I am mistaken, gave his decision contemplating a further and fuller argument on the return, on which this Court might differ from him.

This point settled, I am afraid at some length, a day will be fixed for continuing the argument. I have no doubt that the Crown will appear to discuss the questions of great importance which have been raised. I do not think it likely that the Crown will take up the attitude which has been hypothetically attributed to it, of standing by and allowing the proceedings to take their course.

The position of the Crown in extradition proceedings is intimately connected with the question which I have already referred to and which has still to be decided, whether the Chinese Government has any *locus standi* in these proceedings. In the first place, the *locus standi* for which Mr. Pollock contends is not based on any rule of Court or statutory right; if it exist it must be based, therefore, on general principles.

The Colonial legislation does not, nor could it, proceed on different principles to those on which the Act of the United Kingdom is based. The fundamental principles of extradition are, therefore, to be derived from the U. K. Act of 1870, 33 and 34 Vict. s. 52. Now, so far as the fact of extradition is concerned, it is essentially an administrative matter between the two Governments. This Act does not allow the foreign government desiring the extradition of an offender against its laws to apply to the British Court for the necessary order: it provides that the requisition shall be made to a British Government, and that the Government should then set its own Courts in motion. The procedure traced out by s. 8. (2)—which was adopted in the present case— which allows a warrant to be issued by a Magistrate without an order from the Government does not militate in any way from this general principle; for the last paragraph expressly provides that the fugitive criminal is to be discharged unless within a reasonable time an intimation is received from the Government that a requisition has been made by the foreign Government. This is introduced merely to enable the warrant to be issued on information received by cable, the formal requisition following by a subsequent mail. This being the basis of the procedure, it seems to follow, that all subsequent proceedings in the British Courts are to be taken by the British Government concerned. The Act ensures the Treaty provisions being complied with, and provides the legal machinery by which the British Government may fulfil its Treaty obligations: which involve the arrest of a person who has not offended against its laws, and a withdrawal in his case of what is generally and perhaps conveniently called the "right of asylum." The foreign Government will naturally, by its officers, furnish all the material necessary to enable the British Court to take the necessary action: but, beyond this, what has the foreign Government to do with the matter? If it had a *locus standi* before the courts, the true effect of the administrative order of the

British Government would be a permission, to the foreign Government to conduct the proceedings for extradition before the British Court. So unusual a course would require express legislative sanction. The grant of such authority is certainly not inherent in the Sovereign, for access to the British courts depends on constitutional principles of law, and is independent of the executive. I do not mean to say that a foreign Government might not appear before the British Courts, just as it may appear, subject to special rules of procedure, before British civil courts. But, assuming this to be so, it can only be in matters within the jurisdiction of those Criminal Courts: that is to say, in proceedings connected with some breach of the British criminal law. But the hypothesis of extradition is that there has been no such breach: but, on the contrary, an alleged breach of the law of the foreign country. Neither by statute, rule of court, nor principle, can I see that the foreign Government has any *locus standi* in extradition proceedings. If it were otherwise we should find ourselves in this unpleasant dilemma: either the British Court would stand aside, which would not be in conformity with the Ordinance, and allow the conduct of the proceedings to be in the hands of the foreign Government, which the Ordinance does not contemplate, but rather the contrary: or both the British and the foreign Governments would appear, in which case there might be a conflict of opinion between them; a conflict which might involve the interpretation of the Treaty obligations as between the Governments, and thus questions essentially diplomatic might be raised before the Courts.

Looking at the question merely as one arising in connection with an application for a *habeas corpus* at common law, and assuming that interested parties may appear on such an application, I do not think that the Chinese Government could, as such, appear, for it cannot divest itself of the position in which the Extradition Ordinance has placed it. Its rights must be limited in every direction by that Ordinance. Mr. Pollock stated that the practice in Hongkong has always been for the Chinese Government to appear. I did not understand him to refer to proceedings other than those before the Magistrate. And with regard to the proceedings before the Magistrate, it would appear that what I have said should logically extend to all procedure under the application for extradition. I think it better, however, to limit my judgment to the point actually before me, the position of the Chinese Government on the application for a writ of *habeas corpus*. This position might be somewhat altered in the case of the proceedings before the Magistrate, more especially where the warrant is applied for, as in this case, before the Governor has received a requisition from a foreign Court. That question must be considered when it arises. I am impressed by the fact that in the latest book on extradition (Byron and Chalmers) it is stated that notice of the motion of *habeas corpus* has to be given to the representative of the foreign Government. I know from my own experience that it is not customary for learned authors to make statements on such matters except after consulting the officials who are familiar with the practice, but there is no express reference given, nor does it follow as a matter of course that the giving of the notice implies the right to appear. It may be that it is given only by courtesy. On the other hand in none of the cases cited, nor in any of those referred to in Clarke, is there any trace of a foreign Government having appeared. Sir Edward Clarke it should be noticed is always particular to give the names of the counsel appearing in the cases he refers to. I am naturally very loth to upset any practice which has long been established in the Colony, but the alleged practice has been directly challenged, and I am bound to give a decision. If I am wrong there will be an opportunity of setting me right in the next case by an appeal to the Full Court, where the point can be argued at greater length. But so far as this case is concerned, I am of opinion that the Chinese Government has no *locus standi*, not on the narrow ground that no notice has been served on its representative, but on the broader grounds which I have indicated in this judgment.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

A QUESTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

John D. Hutchinson and Company, plaintiffs, claimed \$5,748.25 from O. Yik Tong. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Messrs Ewens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiffs and the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings) for the defendants. The claim was for goods supplied by the plaintiffs to the Hung On firm, for which it was sought to make the defendant responsible as a partner. The question for the Court to decide was whether the defendant was a partner in the firm or not. If judgment were given in their favour on that point the other side had intimated that they would be willing to arrange for the accounts to be settled by the Registrar. The Hung On firm went into bankruptcy in 1904, and then some books were seized and kept in the possession of the Official Receiver. In one of these books there was the following entry for January 23, 1904, "Received from O Yik Tong as share money \$4,500. There was also evidence that the defendant was recognised as the master of the Hung On, and he on one occasion told Mr Fehico, a solicitor practising at Macao that he had opened a shop called the Hung On at Hongkong, in partnership with some friends.

The case was adjourned.

Thursday, 1st June.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE MR. F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

YU FAT BANK EX PARTE LEUNG SO CHAI

In this case, a public examination by Mr. H. E. Wakeman (the Official Receiver); Mr. P. W. Goldring represented the petitioning creditor.

Ma Yuen declared—I am a partner in the Yu Fat Bank, of 131, Wing Lok Street. The partners are Ma Fat Ting, So Yau Sai, Yeung Tak Cho and myself. There is no partnership agreement. The capital of the bank is \$40,000. The shares in the bank are:—Ma Fat Ting, \$15,000; Yeung Tak Cho, \$5,000; So Yau Sai, \$15,000; witness, \$5,000. The business of the bank was taking deposits and lending out on notes. The bank commenced business about the 23rd or 24th May, 1900. We also dealt in bills of exchange, and sometimes received and sold gold coin. Yeung Tak Cho and I were the partners who attended to the business. The bankruptcy was caused by too much money out amongst the customers. When we received money on deposit from clients no documents in particular were given except a deposit note. Interest was paid according to market rates, the lowest being 60 cents on a \$ 00 per month. We lent out this money at market rates. The highest was 40 odd cents per \$1,000 per day; and the lowest was 20 odd cents per \$1,000 per day. We never lent out at a lower rate than we received. The expenses were every year \$6,100 or \$6,200. The profit we made the first year was \$2,000 after paying all expenses; second year, \$3,000; third about \$5,000; fourth, about \$7,000; fifth, about \$10,000. This \$10,000 has all been let out to shops. The fifth year was up to the end of last Chinese year, last February. This profit is up to then. Some of the debts in the statement of affairs can be recovered. Good and bad debts amount to \$119,000. I have pressed for payment. One debt for \$41,000 is due by the Wang Fung, guaranteed by the Hon. Wei Yuk and another. This is good. Some of the debts are due back as far as 1900. Wei Yuk \$3,000 in 1900 is the first on the list. This was due in 1900. I do not remember the last date on which the bank let out money, nor do I remember the last date on which we received a deposit. There were deposits in the second moon which ends on the 4th April. We received these deposits. I thought the money would have been repaid. I knew then that money was tight, but it was only in the middle of the second moon that there was a run on the bank. This was because people in the street said that we had too much money out. The house, 131, Wing Lok Street, is in my name and Yeung Tak Cho's.

name. There is a mortgage on it for \$15,000. There is no other charge on it.

By the Court—The annual profit is not estimated in cash. It was not necessarily in land; it was by the accounts. The partners did not draw shares of the profit, but the interest was divided at \$80 per \$1,000 per annum. There was not a separate account for each partner; the payments out were put in the cash book. Sometimes special lendings were given to partners. The partners only drew their interest. No one overdrew.

Ma Fat Ting said he was a sleeping partner. His saying that he did not see why they wanted to question him about matters reported in his petition caused some amusement.

Yeung Tak Cho, the assistant manager of the bank, a partner, was also examined.

Mr. Hastings, solicitor, was appointed trustee. The examination was left open for the present, the case being adjourned.

LI YING EXPARTE MA YING PO.

In this case Mr. P. W. Goldring also appeared for the petitioning creditor.

Ma Fat Ting declared—I am the managing partner of the Lai Hing firm. The partners are Quong He On, Wong Yu Tong, Ma Fat Ting (witness), Shung Lai Kong, Mo Pun Tong and Chan Ming Ke. Some are not here, in Hongkong; Mo Pun Tong alias Lau Wai Chune is.

Mr. Gedge said he represented Mr. Lau Wai Chune, who denied partnership.

The Official Receiver said that witness had been away from the Colony, and had not filed his statement. He asked that the examination be adjourned for a week during which time the debtor be required to file his statement.

To this the Court assented.

Mr. Gedge said that his client Mr. Lau Wai Chune denied partnership and asked leave to question witness.

This was permitted, and in answer to Mr. Gedge witness said that there was no proof that Mr. Lau Wai Chune was a partner except by witness's statement. No one knows about it and there was nothing in writing.

Mr. Goldring and Mr. Beavis, acting on behalf of creditors, objected to these questions.

An issue is to be tried. The case was adjourned.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

KWANGTUNG ENTERPRISE.

To further the construction of San-Ling Railway, in the Province of Kwangtung, shares are being offered in America and other foreign countries to which Chinese have emigrated. It is said that shares of the company have been anxiously applied for by the Chinese of the San-Ling district and also other districts of the province of Kwangtung. It is said that about fifty thousand dollars worth of the first allotment of shares have been subscribed for. Mr. Chan Yee-hi, who first started the idea of constructing the railway, when he returned from abroad, is at present visiting various foreign places to raise the capital for the railway. As shares have been favourably accepted by the Chinese emigrants, he is expected to return soon, and then the work of constructing the railway will commence.

DISHONEST OFFICIALS.

Since the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi have been under the sway of smart Viceroy Sham, whose strictness had already overawed the mandarins, a great number of officials, especially magistrates and military officers, have bolted. The late magistrate of Heungshan district who was dismissed a year ago from office, absconded two days ago, for he still owes four thousand taels, being revenue collected in Heungshan district during his term of office, which he has not yet paid to the Government. He knows quite well that Viceroy Sham is not an easy one to deceive, taking the precedents of his brother officers, who have either been locked up in prison, banished to the military posts to work, or to suffer the extreme penalty of the law, so that he finds no safer way than to follow the guidance of the other smart ones who have all got away scot free. In former times the Canton expectant officers had to spend a large sum of money in making presents to the high authorities

before they could secure appointments, and sometimes twenty or thirty thousand dollars were spent to obtain a situation of a lucrative one, but of late the expectant mandarins hesitate to accept appointments which are offered to them without money and without price.

CANTON BANKING.

During the last month several bankshops named Kai-Hing, Kwang-Fung, Wing Shun, Shun Loong, etc., have fallen in bankruptcy. The business is at present greatly hampered on account of the tightness of the money market. The banks opened by the people of the northern provinces, which generally lodged large sums of money with the native banks, refuse at present to advance any sum to them and, moreover, they have lost the credit of the people, who refuse to deposit money with them, and as soon as their sums are due, they cash them at once. Such occurrence is unprecedented, the bank shops in Canton very seldom failing in solvency in former times. The cause of their recent defaulting is that they lost over two million taels at the end of last year and about a million taels at the beginning of this year on account of the failure of other people and shops. It is feared that some more bank-shops will follow suit.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JUDICIAL TORTURE IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I have to express my thanks (also on behalf of the Founders' Committee) for your kindness in drawing public attention to the movement started in this Colony for the abolition of judicial torture. As far back as 25th January, 1905, you mentioned in a paragraph that I had published in the Chinese papers of Canton and Hongkong a translation of an Italian work on the subject of judicial torture. On the 18th May, nearly four months after, you kindly dedicated a leader to the subject, referring also with great pleasure to the abolition of ling-ch'ih through the influence of H. E. Wu-ting-fang. We also are very glad that China is now listening to enlightened men like him, and this gives us great confidence in the success of our movement.

There is, however, a paragraph in your leader which is not correct, and which I, therefore, quote in extenso:—

"In the account of the doings of these good-hearted people, which was supplied to the press, no mention was made of the fact that the object of the little society had been secured."

We could not state "the fact" that had never occurred. I can assure you on the best authority that the Edict referring to the abolition of ling-ch'ih contains nothing about the abolition of torture to extort evidence or confession.

It seems that you have misconstrued the object of our movement. We have taken "torture" in its most exact meaning as the employment of cruel suffering to extort evidence or confession. To avoid mistakes we have carefully specified our meaning by defining it always as judicial torture.

Our object is not, therefore, the abolition of cruel punishments for the guilty, but the abolition of the infliction of excruciating pain, often much worse than the cruellest death, on the innocent as well as the guilty. We consider the latter object more humane and more general, and we also consider that it will bring about the former object. In fact one cannot expect people to be disinclined to inflict cruel pain on the guilty when they are willing to inflict it on the innocent.

Let me also point out that our view is not emotional, but simply judicial; we consider that the principal objection to the use of torture to extort evidence or confession is not that it is cruel, but that it is absurd. It not only inflicts great pain on innocent as well as guilty, but it affords a last chance for the guilty, as a criminal with insensible nerves may escape by his resistance to torture, while according to our laws he would be condemned simply on the strong evidence against him.

Let me quote the opinion of one of the great Roman jurists, Ulpianus, who died more than sixteen hundred years ago and, therefore, lived in times when people enjoyed gladiatorial combats, and even ladies held down their thumbs to have a gladiator killed who had furnished poor sport, when "Chris'ianos ad leones" was a popular cry.

"Quæstioni fidem non semper, nec tamen nunquam habendam, constitutionibus declaratur: etenim res est fragilis, et periculosa, et quæ veritatem fallat. Nam plerique patientia sine duritia tormentorum ita tormenta contemnunt, ut exprimi eis veritas nullo modo possit: alii tanta sunt impatientia, ut (in) quovis mentiri, quam pati tormenta velint; ita fit, ut etiam vario modo fateantur, ut non tantum se, verum etiam alios comminuntur." Digestorum Lib. XLVIII, Tit. XVIII, 23.

As you see, Ulpianus never refers to the cruelty of the practice, as probably he was too much accustomed to it to consider it as such, but he points out that very rarely it can be depended upon, and that most people (at least in his time) were able to resist torture, while others recklessly accused themselves and others through their impatience to suffering. He considers it *unreliable, dangerous and deceptive*. You have here a thoroughly unbiased opinion by a man who had no sentimental objections to the practice but who, through his large experience, had found it an unreliable instrument of justice.

Z. VOLPICELLI.

[It must at once be admitted that we were in error in regarding the two movements as identical in object. So few people choose words nowadays with any regard for their exact meanings that we did not think of attaching special meaning to the phrase "judicial torture." We read the contributed report as referring to an ordinary agitation in favour of reducing the severity of Chinese punishments. This is made very evident elsewhere in the comments quoted; and we have, therefore, suppressed one paragraph of our correspondent's letter, which might cause careless readers to imagine that we had attempted to defend the absurd practice of "torture," as implying "twisting" evidence or confession from the tortured. Having thus acknowledged that there was a misunderstanding, we may call our correspondent's attention to the fact that the exact meaning of the word "torture" is not such an admitted certainty as to allow of the safe absence of all explanation as to the objects of the local Society. The contributed report of its doings contained nothing beyond the phrase "judicial torture" to enlighten the public as to the exact objects of Chev. Volpicelli and his friends. The dictionaries define torture as "severe pain inflicted judicially, either as punishment for a crime, or for the purpose of extorting a confession from an accused person." Chev. Volpicelli meant only the latter; we were thinking of ling-ch'ih as a "judicial torture," which it is. The judicial torture in England, inflicted for the last time in May, 1640 (*vide* Macaulay's history) referred equally to the treatment of convicted persons. Crabb, in discussing the difference betwixt "torture" and "torment" calls the first an excess of the second, and cites the Indian tortures inflicted upon captives, with no ulterior motive other than pleasure in torment. We do not think that the word was coined expressly to describe methods of forcing evidence, &c. Coming from *torqueo*, to twist, it may well have described ancient ways of mishandling human limbs. Evidently, "to avoid mistakes" (such as we were led into) our correspondent must not depend upon the "judicial torture" phrase to specify his particular meaning. After which, it only remains for us to add our assurance that we did not need the somewhat stale evidence of Domitius Ulpianus to persuade us that evidence extorted by physical torment is utterly worthless. Every English school child laughs during its history lesson at the old English witch test by water, in which, if the lady would not drown, she was adjudged guilty, and if she did drown, was declared innocent. We are sceptical about the recent Chinese reforms; but wish the Judicial Torture Abolition Society every good wish. If we had a criticism to offer at all, it would be "Quid observatis auribus fundis preces;" but instead we will take the earliest opportunity of helping to open those ears. Ed.]

A TRAMWAY FATALITY.

ARE THE LIFE-GUARDS EFFECTIVE?

At the Magistracy on the 30th May before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, sitting as coroner, and a jury, an inquiry was held into the circumstances connected with the death of a Chinese boy Wong Ping Tim, who was knocked down by a tramcar in Des Vœux Road on the 16th instant and subsequently succumbed to his injuries.

J. Gray Scott, General Manager of the Tramway Co., gave evidence with regard to the life-guards. He said—The present case is the first in which the guards have been put to practical use in the matter of life saving, all previous accidents having been due to knocking down, the cars having been brought to a stop before a body has got underneath. When this accident was told to me, I endeavoured to ascertain if possible how the boy got under the mat of the lifeguard, with a view to testing its efficiency. I am of opinion that in all probability deceased fell with his arm extended outward in the direction of the on-coming car, and his arm formed a gap by which the lifeguard passed over his body. I tested car No. 23 by placing on the line a large coil of rope and a circular timber baulk. The lifeguard picked these up in each case. The height of the lifeguard from the ground is arranged as nearly as possible at two inches, which margin is necessary in order to avoid the guard scraping on the concrete track. This is not the common form of guard in use in England. The more common form is one of a similar type fitted in addition with a gate and trigger. The gate is placed about three feet in front of the life guard, and when any obstruction comes against it the trigger is released and the guard falls. Our system is used by many companies in England and, in my opinion, is a satisfactory one. It is passed by the Board of Trade. I have reported this matter, and anything that can be done by my company to avoid accidents and loss of life shall be done. I think it desirable that our life guards should be converted into the gate system. Even with the gate type the present accident could not have been avoided.

By the Jury—It might be possible for a body to fall on the line and avoid striking the guard. It is a disputed point among tramway companies in England as to which is the best system of life guards, but the gate system is now more generally used.

The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure, but did not think it necessary to add a rider with regard to life guards.

CHINESE CHRISTIANS.

HOW SOME CONVERTS ARE MADE.

The following strange tale published by the *Shên-pao* comes from Hankow:—In the district of Loshan belonging to Chienlihsien, Wuchang prefecture, there is a Protestant Church belonging to the American Church Mission, and also a Roman Catholic Church. The converts of both Churches have hitherto always lived in harmony; lately, however, there has been trouble between people of the two sects which, if not settled satisfactorily by the heads of the two churches will be a constant source of friction. It appeared that a certain farmer, a so-called convert of the American Church Mission, on the strength of his membership, took upon himself to encroach in various ways upon the lands of a neighbour, a non-convert. The latter dared not openly resent the treatment accorded but quietly applied for, and got admitted into, the same Church as his aggressor. The new member then took the first opportunity to explain to his pastor the injustice under which he had been suffering, and the pastor, after due investigation, finding the charge made to be true, naturally spoke to the aggressor and advised him to make proper amends. When the aggressor saw that his conduct was not favourably looked upon by his pastor, he sought revenge by joining the Roman Catholic Church. Then began the trouble in earnest. The apostate gathered a crowd of men, and taking advantage of the absence from home of his victim one day did great damage to the latter's crops. Upon complaint being made to his pastor the latter called upon the Catholic priest on the matter, but apparently without

success. The aggressor becoming bolder than ever by the indifference of his priest, then gathered a large mob with the object of creating a riot against the Protestant Church, and so menacing was the mob, that those in the Protestant Church compound were forced to get away to avoid it. A cook belonging to the Mission unluckily could not get away in time and he was set upon by the rioters and fatally injured. The matter has been reported to the Head of the American Church Mission in Hankow with the request that the Head of the Roman Catholic Mission at that port be asked to settle matters. People in Chienlihsien are writing to Hankow and anxiously waiting for news.—*N.-C. Daily News*.

"GASCOIGNE ROAD."

A letter from H. E. the Governor, sent to Major-General Sir W. J. Gascoigne, read as follows:—Government House.

Hongkong, 24th March, 1905.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit the enclosed copy of Government Notification No. 158 and to inform you that the main thoroughfare recently opened across the Kowloon Peninsula has by my direction been named Gascoigne Road in commemoration of your connection with the dedication to the Public of the King's Park which the road partly traverses.

I have, etc. (Sd.) M. NATHAN,
Governor, &c.

Major-General W. J. Gascoigne,
London.

His Excellency is in receipt of the following reply from Sir W. J. Gascoigne:—

13, South Street, Park Lane, W.

28th April, 1905.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of 24th ultimo numbered as above.

It is with very great pleasure that I learn that, through Your Excellency's kindness, a road across the Kowloon Peninsula has been named after me, thereby associating me with a Colony in which I passed five of the happiest years of my life.

I beg to express to Your Excellency my great thanks for your kindness in allowing this honour to be accorded to me.

I have, etc. (Sd.) W. J. GASCOIGNE,
Major-General.

His Excellency the Governor.

ALLEGED ARMED ROBBERY.

The adjourned case in which the extradition of Cheang Pat was applied for by the Chinese Government on a charge of armed robbery was continued before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on 1st June.

Mr. H. E. Pollock appeared to make the application on behalf of the Chinese Government but Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) who represented the defendant objected to Mr. Pollock's appearance for the Chinese Government on the grounds laid down by the Chief Justice, and submitted that although the latter gentleman now represented the Crown (being instructed by Mr. Bowley), the previous proceedings were improper. Mr. Pollock pointed out that previously by the absence of the local authorities he had implied authority to appear for the prosecution, and now (being instructed by the Crown Solicitor) he had express authority. He submitted that there was nothing to render the evidence that had been taken illegal. Mr. Hett pointed out that Mr. Pollock was retained by the Chinese Government and, as it was a matter of life or death to his client, he must take every possible objection.

His Worship reserved his decision on the points raised, and the case was remanded.

IRREGULAR DEFORESTATION.

Tsoi Tam Kau, a forester in the Afforestation Department, was charged before Mr. G. N. Orme at the Police Court with neglecting to enter in his entry books 467 trees which he had felled at Aberdeen. Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted. Defendant was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour.

MISSIONARIES IN JAPAN.

The "self-sacrifice" of foreign missionaries who chose Japan as the field of their immolation is thus described by the "Stray Notes" writer in the *Japan Chronicle*.—

What a lovely place Arima is at this season of the year! Umbrageous groves, tinkling waterfalls, purling streams, the brilliant greens of early summer backed by the lovely blues of a storm-washed sky. "It's just too lovely for anything," as one of the missionary young ladies said to me. I can well understand the enthusiasm of my missionary friends for Arima at this season of the year. The week before last, I am told, the Baptist missionaries of Japan were meeting there, having great liking for the place because there is so much water about it. Last week about ninety of the missionaries of the Church Missionary Society met in Arima to deliberate upon their work. This week or next week will come the turn of the American Board missionaries with Rockefeller's dollars, behind them. And I further learn from a faithful chronicler in a Yokohama journal that "at other times in the year several other companies of missionaries will also convene there." The same writer says:—

The complete change from the cities or the mission stations gives a pleasant rest and the opportunities are unexceptionable for quiet conference and debates over methods and ways and means. The place is easily reached and the scenery through the mountains is inspiring. All things thus combine to make it an almost ideal place for the holding of a week's conference meetings.

I can well believe it. There are too few conferences in Japan altogether. Some of the missionary societies do not have more than four a year, and this is clearly too few to enable them to recover from the exhausting labours in the vineyard. But why do I not see more about these conferences in the missionary magazines with the alluring title on the cover: "Come Over and Help Us?" If I had only known about those conferences I should have come over and helped many years before I did. But all I remember was such paragraphs as this:—

The American Board has now a mission in Japan. The missionaries and their wives are described as living on the site of abandoned Buddhist monasteries on a mountain slope to the east of Kyoto, the ancient Japanese capital. They have renounced everything but a bare subsistence, are living in their white tents and working with enthusiasm.

That was not the sort of thing to invite a constitutionally weary man to join the missionary ranks. If I had only known what the reality was,—if I had only learned of those pleasant re-unions in the hills, of those delightful conferences in Arima, of those little holidays in Karuizawa, of the tent life on the slopes of Hiesisan, how different it might have been!

CHINESE "JUDICIAL TORTURE" AGAIN.

According to a letter from the North the recent Imperial decree abolishing torture, during investigation of cases, has raised a storm of protest from members of the Board of Punishments and a number of Censors. It would seem that it has been the etiquette since the establishment of the Cheng Wu-ch'u (Department of State Affairs) in 1902, that whenever any suggestion is presented to the Throne the matter is at once referred to the Cheng Wu-ch'u for decision. In the case under review this was not done by the Empress Dowager who, immediately after reading Wu Ting-fang's memorial for more leniency in the execution of the laws, issued an edict granting his memorial. Conservatives in the Board of Punishments, however, declare that under present conditions it is impossible to abolish torture during the examination of cases, and they have also taken advantage of the Empress Dowager's so-called slip to declare that Her Majesty should have in the first place ordered the Cheng Wu-ch'u to consider and report on the matter before granting the Imperial approval. The chances are that being unable to withstand all this clamour, Her Majesty may order the Cheng Wu-ch'u to report on the matter after all.—*N.-C. Daily News*

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 24th May.—Business reported since the 17th inst., is as under:—

	1905.	1904.
Settlements	41,266	182,518
Stock	77,383	57,227

The following are the statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season viz:—

	1905.	1904.
HANKOW TEA.	4-Chests.	4-Chests.
Settlements	7,716	198,345
Stock	77,383	57,227
Arrivals	85,099	255,572
KIUKIANG TEA.	4-Chests.	4-Chests.
Settlements	33,550	104,020
Stock	61,581	55,964
Arrivals	95,133	159,984

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Son's Silk Circular, dated Shanghai, 24th May, 1905, states:—The Home Markets are firm: Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 11/6, and in Lyons at Fcs. 31.75. Raw Silk.—Settlements have been confined to one or two small purchases of Tsatlees at prices that show a weakening tendency. Hand Filatures.—A moderate business has been done in medium and low grade. New Styles are scarce and firmly held. We hear of one transaction for America of Shengwha Columbia 1, 2 and 3 at an average price of \$670. Yellow Silks.—Transactions in this class of Silk are very limited, and the Market closes weak. Steam Filatures.—A fair business continues in low grade Steams in spite of the high exchange. Shipments are nearly all for Europe. Waste Silk.—The market is again exceedingly quiet, the inclination to buy mentioned in our last circular having been checked by the rise in exchange and the firmness it is now showing. New Crop.—Reports from the Woosie and Tsatlee districts are fairly satisfactory, but the season being a late one it is too early to give any definite information about the crop. The Shaoshing cocoon market is reported to have opened at \$43, rising in a few hours to \$55; the latter price is not warranted by the condition or prospects of the market.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 2nd June.—There is no change in the prices as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.90 to \$9.00 pcls.
Do. " 2, White	7.50 to 7.60 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.40 to 6.50 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.00 to 6.05 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.70 to 8.80 "
Do. " 2, White	7.40 to 7.50 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.00 to 6.05 "
Do. " 2, Brown	5.60 to 5.70 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.50 to 12.30 "
Shekloong	11.70 to 11.80 "

RICE.

HONGKONG 2nd June.—The prices are the same as when last reported, market being steady.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.65 to \$2.70
" Round, good quality	4.05 to 4.10
" Long	4.20 to 4.25
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	3.20 to 3.25
" Garden, " No. 1	3.30 to 3.35
" White	4.25 to 4.30
" Fine Cargo	4.35 to 4.40

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of June 2nd state that 19 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 44,500 tons of Japan coal, 8,900 tons of Cardiff Coal, and 21,000 tons of Indian. Since 20th May 25,500 tons of Japan coal have arrived. The market continues firm. Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$17.00 \$19.00 ex-ship.
Australian	\$11.00 \$12.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miki Lump	\$11.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump	\$8.50 to \$11.00 ex-ship, steady.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 1st June.

Quotations are:— Allow'ce net to 1 catty.

Malwa New	\$1180 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1180 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1240 to — do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1320 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$980 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$1020 to — do.
Patna New	\$1117 to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$ — to — do.
Benares New	\$1085 to — do.

HONGKONG 1st June, 1905.—The movements in our various Opium markets, since the 18th May, have been as follows:—

Stocks as per circular of	18th May, 1905.	19th May, 1905.	20th May, 1905.	21st May, 1905.
May 18th Imports per	1,477	2,809	661	1,591
" 22nd " "	129	200	26	21
" 30th " "	—	630	345	—
" 30th " "	—	520	210	—
" 30th " "	—	197	—	—

Less Exports to Shanghai	1,576	4,156	1,242	1,612
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	127	664	136	44

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,321 3,238 1,041 1,568

Bengal.—Prices, after declining to \$1,100 for Patna and \$1,070 for Benares, rapidly advanced, owing to good demand and we close steady at \$1,115 for Patna and \$1,182 for Benares.

Malwa.—The demand continues small and quotations are as follows:—

New	\$1,100
2 years old	\$1,150
3 " "	\$1,180
4/5 " "	\$1,230
Oldest	\$1,330

Persian.—There has been hardly anything doing and the consumption is small.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong, 2nd June, says:—A quiet but steady business has been done throughout the past fortnight at unaltered prices, and at the close the demand still continues, while both buyers and sellers appear satisfied to work on present basis. The enquiry for No. 20s has greatly subsided; No. 10s and No. 12s are, as usual, in good request, and form the bulk of the settlements, prices, here and there, showing some slight variation. A few 16s have found buyers at full market values, but the demand for this count is so small that it is very easily satisfied. For lower counts there is scarcely any demand and sales can only be forced at extremely low rates. Stocks continue to fall off, and our estimate stands at a very reasonable figure. The market closes steady.

Local Manufacture—Continues in fair request, and sales of 4'0 bales No. 10s at \$107 to \$111, and 100 bales No. 12s at \$111 are reported.

Japanese Yarn.—There is no business doing in these threads.

Raw Cotton.—Both India and China staples have become dull and quiet, and delivery under old contracts continues very slow. No new transactions are reported. Estimated unsold stock about 5,700 bales Indian, about 1,000 bales being exported to Kobe, and 250 bales Chinese. Quotations are Indian \$19 to \$23 and Chinese \$22 to \$25.

Exchange on India, after slight fluctuation, closes weak to-day at Rs. 139 for T/T and Rs. 139 for Post. On Shanghai 71½, and on Yokohama 91½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 19th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Market inactive, Newchwang demand entirely subsided, and that for the River Ports slack and prices barely maintained. Total sales about 3,750, and estimated stock about 60,000 bales.

Japanese:—Small business at unsteady prices; sales amounting to about 2,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 93 to 106 for No. 16s, and Tls. 100 to 107 for No. 20s. Close weak.

Local:—Market steady with only a small business passing at the close, reported sales being about 1,000 bales No. 10s, No. 14s and No. 16s, on the basis of Tls. 83, Tls. 91 and Tls. 92½ respectively.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., in their Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 25th May, 1905, state:—So far as the demand is concerned the market is going from bad to worse, but in the great majority of cases holders both Foreign and Native, are not forcing the situation. The spring season has been abnormally prolonged by the wet weather, which, if it continues, will seriously interfere with the harvesting of the winter crops of wheat and barley. In this neighbourhood they look in a remarkably healthy condition, but the report is not so favourable farther up the Yangtze valley. A few fine days in the earlier part of the interval, gave some chance to clear with more freedom, but another change has already taken place. At last news is coming to hand that leads to the supposition that a big fight for final supremacy in the North has

already commenced, but with the very remarkable precautions, taken by both of the belligerents, to prevent information leaking through it is quite impossible to conjecture what the result will be. There are slight indications that the pressure round Newchwang is being gradually relieved, but, as this is only gathered through cablegrams ordering fresh supplies to be bought on this market, most of the Native dealers consider it is better to wait for written advices before taking any very energetic action. The tendency all round is to lie low until the settling day is over, a fortnight hence, after which it is generally held in Native circles a revival in the demand will take place, though of course it will greatly depend on the outcome of the war. Money has been circulating more freely during the interval amongst the trade, but this is in all probability to take up forward exchange settlements due at the end of the month, rather than to clear goods for consumptive requirements. There is nothing fresh to advise from our other dependencies, the River markets and Ningpo remaining very dull, while for Tientsin and Chefoo there is still some little activity. What telegrams have come in from Manchester report a firm market with a tendency to dearer prices in sympathy with Cotton, full rates being paid for actual requirements. The latest Liverpool quotations for Cotton ad. 4.50d. for Mid-American and 7d. for Egyptians while the New York quotations have advanced to 7.90 cents for June and 8 cents for July. No advices seem to have come to hand from that quarter during the interval concerning the market for Cotton Piece Goods. Referring to the remarks we have already had occasion to make, another instance has come to light this week of a manufacturer who had induced a Firm here to buy what was, presumably, the whole of his production of a certain Cloth for months and months ahead, now offering to sell further quantities of the same cloth for much earlier delivery, instead of accelerating the completion of earlier contracts. This was a Lancashire mill. The demand for Yarns remains very slack, as is usual at this time of the year, and prices are drooping. Native Cotton is rather firmer. Piece Goods.—Business from first hands is almost entirely confined to the regular Auctions, where prices, on the average, continue to favour the buyers, though the decline is to some extent made up for by the advance in sterling rates of exchange. There has, to all intents and purposes, been no forward business doing and the demand for goods from stock is particularly quiet, the prices realised at the Auctions being clear evidence of this.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, May 17th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 34.50
Do. Seconds	30.50
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	17.00
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	55.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	8.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	11.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	18.00
Jute	4.70
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	9.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	8.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.00
Animal Tallow	9.50
Gallnuts, Usual shape	17.30
Do. Plum do.	18.30
Tobacco, Tingchow	7.50
Do. Wongkong	9.00
Black Bristles	110.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	(nom.)
" " Wild Duck	(")
Turmeric	8.50
Sesamum Seed	4.20
Sesamum Seed Oil	8.40
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	(nom.)
Wood Oil	8.00
Tea Oil	10.00

Per M. M. steamer Ernest Simons, sailed on 30th May. For Marseilles:—75 bales raw silk, 134 bales pierced cocoons, 12 cases silk piece goods, 83 bales human hair, 3 cases ylang ylang oil, 10 cases china root, 8 packages sundries. For Lyons:—197 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—10 bales raw silk. For Manchester:—120 bales waste silk.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd June, 1905.—We have no improvement to report in the market; in fact, with a continuation of the dullness reported in our last, and in consequence of the continued tightness of money among the Chinese, added to a slump in one of our chief speculative stocks, we have to record a decidedly weak market. The business during the week has been unimportant, owing chiefly to the scarcity of buyers for either investment or speculation. With brighter prospects of peace, owing to the disappearance of the Baltic Fleet Bogey, however, and a reported "better feeling" in Chinese Mercantile circles, we may reasonably hope for an improvement in the market, even if it proves to be a slow one.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai ruled weak in the early part of the week in sympathy with a further drop in the London rate to £78 10s., and shares were unsaleable at \$790, later, however, with the sudden recovery of the London market to £80, our market improved and sales were effected at \$792½ and \$795, the market closing steady at the latter rate. Nationals remain unchanged but continue in demand without further sales at \$37.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions remain unchanged and without business. China Traders, after further sales at \$61, advanced quickly with but a small business at intermediate rates to \$64, the market closing firm at that rate. Cantons have also advanced without business to \$320, at which rate sellers still hold back. Yangtszes and North Chinas remain unchanged and neglected.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have changed hands in small lots at \$300, and close with a few more shares offering at the rate, while a larger lot is reported at a slightly lower rate. Chinas are still enquired for at \$86, without bringing any shares on the market.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$27 in fair lots. Indo-Chinas, with persistent rumours, chiefly from Shanghai, of a smaller dividend that was generally anticipated, have ruled very dull, and after a few sales in the early part of the week at \$123, it was impossible to place shares or even to give a reliable buying quotation. The weakness of our market was quickly reflected to Shanghai and even accentuated there, the model settlement freely offering us shares both for cash and time at greatly reduced rates and succeeding in placing a limited number at Tls. 83 for July. The weakness has been explained to-day by a telegram from London, announcing that the directors recommend a dividend of only 12s. i.e. 6 per cent. on the capital. The announcement has been received with great disappointment by China shareholders and has further depressed a weak market. It is difficult to give a closing quotation in the absence of buyers, and \$117 must be considered quite nominal. The latest quotation from London received on the 31st ultimo was £12. Shells have been placed at 22s. 6d. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands at \$221 for the settlement, and Luzons are still in demand at \$30 without bringing any shares on the market.

MINING.—Nothing to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue neglected with a tendency to weakness at \$202. Kowloon Wharves are enquired for at \$103, with no business to report. New Amoy Docks have again receded to \$20 with sellers. Farnhams have gradually improved during the week to Tls. 160 and Hongkew Wharves to Tls. 187½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed during the week at \$122, and close fairly steady at that rate. Kowloon Lands, West Points and Hongkong Hotels remain unchanged with sellers and no sales to report. Humphreys' Estates have been placed in small lots at \$13. Shanghai Lands have advanced to Tls. 120 with buyers.

COTTONS MILLS.—No changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—With the exception of sales of New Laundries at \$7½ (fully paid up), and an advance in Hongkong Tramways to \$217½ we have nothing to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$795, London, £80.
National B. of China	25	\$37, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$5½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$13, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$8.60, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 37, \$18½, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	Tls. 37½, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 40
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 180, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	\$17, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$8	
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 160, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$103, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$202, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$20, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 187½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$33½, buyers
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$26½, sales & sel.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$5	\$17, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$160, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$17½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$217½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$145, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$242½
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$17½, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$320, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$86, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$64, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300, sales
North China	25	Tls. 82
Union	\$100	\$695, sellers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$160
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$122, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$13, sales & sellers
Do. New	\$10	
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raub's	18/10	\$3½, sellers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$221
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$30, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$21½, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35½, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$27, sales
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$117
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	22/6, sales & sel.
Do. Preference	\$10	\$8. 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$35, ex div.
Do. New	\$5	\$27, ex div.
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$23, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8, buyers
Do. New	\$3	\$7½, sales
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12.75, ex div., sel.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9½
Do. Founders	\$10	\$180

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report for the week ending May 25th, 1905, states:—The past week has been rather quieter in share dealing, this largely owing to a sudden tightness in the money market. This we expect, however, will be soon relieved, as heavy shipments of bullion are on their way. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/7½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. A transaction is reported locally at \$787.50, ex. 73. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. No business reported. The market is weak with sellers for cash at Tls. 88. News of the directors' decision regarding the dividend for the past year is daily expected. Shanghai Tugs. Ordinary shares have been placed at Tls. 58 and Preference at 47. The latter are wanted at even a trifle over this rate. There are sellers of ordinary shares at Tls. 60. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnhams. The market opened with sales for June at Tls. 159½. Sales were effected for May at Tls. 157; July Tls. 161½ and 161. On the 20th cash shares changed hands at Tls. 157. On the 22nd for cash at Tls. 155½; July Tls. 160½,

160½ and 160; September Tls. 162. On 23rd cash shares at Tls. 155½ and 155. May 158½; August and September Tls. 161; October Tls. 162 and 161½. On 24th May shares were placed at Tls. 155; July at Tls. 157½ and August Tls. 161 and 160. The market closes steady with buyers at Tls. 155 for cash and at the last quotations for forward delivery. Yangtze Wharf and Godowns have been placed at Tls. 190 and at 192. S. & H. Wharf. Tls. 200 for October; Tls. 190 July; Tls. 191 August and Tls. 188½ cash. Sugars.—Peraks have been placed at Tls. 65 for cash and Tls. 67½ for June; Tls. 70 September. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. shares have been placed at Tls. 7.35. Weihaiwei Golds at 5.50. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. A number of transactions have taken place at 118.50. Industrial.—Ewos have been placed at Tls. 36 and 36.25. Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 40. All other cotton stocks remain untouched. Paper and Pulps have been placed at Tls. 160 cash and for May. Major Bros. at Tls. 65 and Ice shares at Tls. 26. Langkats. The market opened at the beginning of the week with sales for cash at Tls. 220, but rose on the 22nd to Tls. 225 and on the 24th sales at Tls. 227½ were reported. Sales have been effected for May delivery at Tls. 222½ and 225. June Tls. 225½ and 230. July Tls. 227½ and 230. August Tls. 230. September Tls. 232½ and October Tls. 235. At closing there are buyers for cash at Tls. 225; sellers at Tls. 227½ and sellers at the last quotations for forward delivery. Sumatras changed hands at Tls. 68. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz at \$26; Weeks \$20 and Astor House at \$34. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 68 and 67. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Land 5½ per cent. at Tls. 92.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	SATURDAY, 2nd June.
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	234
Credits 4 months' sight	237½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	191
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	45½
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	139½
Bank, on demand	139½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	139½
Bank, on demand	139½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71
Private, 30 days' sight	72
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	91½
ON MANILA.—On demand	91½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	5½ p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	111½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61½
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.60
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$55.40
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 2nd June.—Business continues very dull, with only a limited demand for tonnage. From Saigon to Hongkong, 9 cents per picul has been paid for small parcels; to Philippines, two handy sized steamers have been closed at 31 cents per picul, and there is further demand in this direction; to Japan and Java, no inquiry. From Java to Hongkong, 25 cents nominal. Bangkok to Hongkong, no change. Coal freights: The prohibition of the export of coal, from Japan has been removed. No fixtures from Japan have been reported.

The following are the settlements:—

Heathbank—British steamer, 2,086 tons, Hongay to Penang (3,000 T.), at \$3.50 per ton.

Bjornstjerne Bjornson—Norwegian steamer, 736 tons, Hongkong to Kobe, \$4,500 in full.

Taishan—British steamer, 1,122 tons, Saigon to Cebu (30,000 piculs), 31 cents per picul.

Brunhilde—German steamer, 872 tons, Saigon to 1/2 ports Philippines, 31 cents per picul.

Promiss—Norwegian steamer, 713 tons, monthly 6 months, at \$7,000 per month.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai):—48/- plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai):—Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea and General Cargo 37/6 per ton. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo Tails 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

- May—ARRIVALS.**
- 28, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 28, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Yokohama.
 - 28, Gibraltar, British str., from Moji.
 - 28, Heimdal, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 - 28, Loksang, British str., from Wuhu.
 - 28, March, British str., from Cardiff.
 - 28, Queen Louise, British str., from Moji.
 - 29, Buford, U.S. transport, from Manila.
 - 29, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 29, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 - 29, Daghestan, British str., from New York.
 - 29, Fri, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 - 29, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 - 29, Mad. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
 - 29, Mandal, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 - 29, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., from Kobe.
 - 29, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 29, Ras Ibada, British str., from Hongay.
 - 29, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 - 29, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Kuchinotzu.
 - 30, Caledonien, French str., from Marseilles.
 - 30, Carl Menzell, German str., from Canton.
 - 30, Castor, Norwegian str., from Langkat.
 - 30, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 30, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 - 30, Ichang, British str., from Chefoo.
 - 30, Jardon Hill, British 4-m. bk., from N. York.
 - 30, Kwongsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 - 30, Opland, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
 - 30, Senegambia, German str., from Shanghai.
 - 30, Taishan, British str., from Saigon.
 - 31, Ardova, British str., from Moji.
 - 31, Esang, British str., from Canton.
 - 31, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
 - 31, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 - 31, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 - 31, Kiukiang, British str., from Wuhu.
 - 31, Thyra, British str., from Saigon.
- June—**
- 1, Bullmouth, British str., from Palambang.
 - 1, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 - 1, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 1, Glory, British battleship, from Mirs Bay.
 - 1, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 - 1, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 - 1, Hogue, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
 - 1, Kolsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 1, Nubia, British str., from Bombay.
 - 1, Pandua, British str., from Rangoon.
 - 1, Sutlej, British cruiser, from Singapore.
- May—DEPARTURES.**
- 29, Heim, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 - 29, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Wuhu.
 - 29, Ithaka, German str., for Chinkiang.
 - 29, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 - 29, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 - 29, Silda, Norwegian str., for Moji.
 - 30, Amara, British str., for Shanghai.
 - 30, Brunhilde, German str., for Saigon.
 - 30, Caledonien, French str., for Shanghai.
 - 30, Castor, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 - 30, Daghestan, British str., for Shanghai.
 - 30, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.
 - 30, Glancus, British str., for Shanghai.
 - 30, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 - 30, Haiohing, British str., for Coast Ports.
 - 30, Heathbank, British str., for Hongay.
 - 30, Holstein, German str., for Haiphong.
 - 30, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
 - 30, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 - 30, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 - 30, Manchuria, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 - 30, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 - 30, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Sydney.
 - 30, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 - 30, Triumph, German str., for Coast Ports.
 - 31, Centurion, British ship, for Mirs Bay.
 - 31, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
 - 31, Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 - 31, Gulf of Venice, Brit. str., for Townsville.
 - 31, Ichang, British str., for Canton.
 - 31, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
 - 31, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 - 31, Opland, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 - 31, Travancore, British str., for Port Angeles.
 - 31, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- June—**
- 1, B. Bjornson, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 - 1, Carl Menzell, German str., for Swatow.
 - 1, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
 - 1, Kansu, British str., for Tientsin.
 - 1, March, British str., for Sasebo.
 - 1, Senegambia, German str., for Hamburg.
 - 1, Wik, German str., for Tsingtau.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per Chowtai, from Bangkok, Messrs. Russell and Schlepke.**
- Per Catherine Apear, from Calcutta, &c., Capt. and Mrs. W. Taylor and child and Mr. C. Hall.**
- Per Loongsang, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Comdr. Hutchins, U.S.N., Lieut. Comdrs. A. W. Dodd and C. E. Rommel, Lieuts. H. G. Gates and J. J. Raby, Messrs. R. H. Dowson and J. B. Rooche.**
- Per Ernest Simons, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Ohver, Messrs. Wilfred Wallace and Gallon, Misses Marikava, Santiago, Sermacci, Alcazai, Tellosa, Goa and Dason; from Kobe, Messrs. H. M. Anderson, A. Boyd, and T. Takahashi; from Shanghai, Messrs. Bateman and Danich, Mr. and Mrs. Gaston, Mr. Ronalds, Misses Luscombe, Williams and H. Bradley, Messrs. Bastien, Lober, Melkoff, Miss Kettler, Mrs. Chilver, Miss Kemp, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas, Miss Frampton, Mr. Chochrane, Miss Nicoll, Mrs. Kofler, Messrs. H. Aberbock, B. Lube, Mrs. Aragauchi, Messrs. Echihachi, Saleur Hyahya, Jern Mason and C. Carlos; for Saigon from Kobe, Mr. Rajiyama; from Shanghai, Mr. Mazot, Mr. and Mrs. S. Stein and child, Mr. and Mrs. Berthez, Mr. Luzons, Mrs. Fenn, Messrs. Emile Chuilon and L. Reynier; for Singapore from Shanghai, Miss Jeber Kaurtoth, Messrs. Charlotte, de Bondy, Miss S. Schmid, Mr. John Brown, Mrs. Elias and child, and Mr. J. Reubon; for Colombo from Yokohama, Messrs. Ponoosamy Pelay and E. B. Creasy; from Shanghai, Messrs. J. Arakawa and Gersch Kopp, Miss Esther Yuzchkieurtz, Mr. K. J. Williams, Miss Clara Rodriguez, Miss Tanba Sidienick, Mrs. Rosa, Messrs. Dalaportas and S. Klavenitz; for Bombay from Shanghai, Mr. J. M. Master; for Suez from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Altmeyer; for Port Said from Shanghai, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Srebenik, Mr. Pascalinis, Mrs. Goldstein, and Mr. Colombo; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Pere Steichen; from Kobe, Messrs. T. H. Holloway, Church, A. C. Hoad, D. Cole, H. C. Bates, G. F. Loner, D. Fribs, Y. Snodgrass, J. Earson, A. Anderson, E. Young, R. Small, J. Henderson, J. Roach, H. Frauser, Herdson, Fruchard, Pruche, Joachim Marcos, and Ramizo Marcos; from Shanghai, Messrs. Koenigsberg, de Bauer, Dervis, Aubert, Rowe, Puthod, Spoldtboog, Mr. and Mrs. Syegetyvory and 3 children, Messrs. G. Huren and Petit, Mr. and Mrs. Lazar, Mrs. Rosenfeld, Messrs. Roger Georges and Ganier, Mrs. Krewaruchka, Mr. Leble, Mr. and Mrs. Kening, and Mr. Guy de Villemoiz.**
- Per Choysang, from Shanghai, &c., Messrs. W. Douglas and Matthews.**
- Per Caledonien, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mr. A. Snowman, Mrs. Dellebecco, Mr. de la Fuente, and Rev. Genty; from Colombo, Messrs. Queran and Rodriguez; from Singapore, Dr. Schlbach, Messrs. Schwartz, Bekkering, and Mrs. Nagatasayo; from Saigon, Messrs. J. H. mn, A. Thompson, Houziet, Mr. and Mrs. Isamberg, and Mr. Georges Wilson; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Theurey and Boses it, Revs. Julien, G. ytino and Marill, and Mr. L. Basso; from Port Said, Mr. Steph Austophilis; from Colombo, Mr. Ott Rihl; from Singapore, Mrs. C. Head Jones, Mr. Shratter, Mrs. Rosenthal, Mrs. Steinberg, Mr. and Mrs. Lelowich; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Beustrile, Kiugoro Yezawa and Soitchi Harashi; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Brown and Mr. Martin; from Singapore, Miss Emma Pohl, Messrs. D. Jones, Hashimoto, and Miss Okishi; from Saigon, Mr. Laudin.**
- Per Rubi, from Manila, Mrs. R. del Pan and 2 children, Mr. N. E. Nichols, Rev. Ibanoz, Mr. and Mrs. Glassbrook and children, Mr. Lucien Hemmerding, Mr. and Mrs. I. Boek, Messrs. A. Nelson, A. Camps, R. H. Sherman, Fetzner, Amer, H. A. Stewart, J. Var-la, Mateo Goity, Mrs. and Miss Gagigas, Mrs. M. Bernardo, Messrs. C. E. Dy Luangee, J. A. Dy Gaooco and F. E. McGavill.**
- Per Nubia, for Hongkong from London, Messrs. E. Morley, V. F. McCann, G. F. Thompson, John Lambert, S. H. Southon, P. R. Adams, J. Tarrant, T. G. Brighton, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Chambers; from Marseilles, Messrs. MacGillwray, T. C. Whitney, and Baroness de Pallands; from Singapore, Mr. and Miss Gay, Dr. Middleton, Messrs. Chope, Sutugaren, Khan**

Sirdar, and Castiho; for Manila from Marseilles, Mr. J. Marshall; for Shanghai from London, Sergt. W. Gray, Misses Horrocks, Fletcher and Hutton, Messrs. W. E. Blades, W. McSwiney; from Marseilles, Mr. J. Kitching, Mr. and Mrs. R. Truman, Dr. Ethel Starmer, Messrs. N. Sparke, A. R. Donnelly and Barks; from Brindisi, Mr. C. H. Borowski; for Yokohama from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. MacDonald.

DEPARTED.

Per Ernest Simons, for Saigon, Rev. P. Keller, Mrs. E. E. Conklin; for Singapore, Messrs. D. N. Assomall, G. T. Assomall, A. S. Abdoolally, and A. J. Cowdrey; for Bombay, Mr. Jehangir D. Noria; for Colombo, Mr. A. E. Bogaars; for Marseilles, Messrs. Bonnetom, C. da S. Vieira de Azevedo, Chas. E. Krecher, Guillon, and Rev. Chartier.

Per Manchuria, for China and Japan ports, Mrs. G. L. Bradley, Mrs. E. T. McCormick, Mrs. A. R. Eddy, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Newton, Mr. W. B. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Max Lang Om, Lieut. A. Lippincott, U.S.A., Mr. Jungingen, Mr. and Mrs. F. Ingold, Mr. J. B. Roche, Mrs. N. Decker, Messrs. Thos. H. Harris, Chas. Edwards, and A. S. Vihara; for San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Van Voorhies, Messrs. B. J. Van Voorhies, A. L. Young, Kenneth Beeby, J. Red Elliott, Geo. Watson, Mrs. S. F. Watson, Mr. F. M. Hutchinson, Mr. A. C. Vroman, Mrs. H. Forbes, Miss Emma Forbes, Mrs. B. M. Holman, Mrs. M. E. Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. A. Sproule, Misses Emily, Eliza, and M. H. Sproule, Miss E. Howard, Messrs. L. Lovegrove, M. B. Cohen, L. Guyn, and I. H. Chandler, Mr. W. H. Harstedt and child, Mrs. L. M. Gray and infant, Messrs. W. O. Pruitt, R. A. Predton, and Chas. D. Hart, Dr. W. F. Musgrave, Mrs. A. Lippincott, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Dakin, Mrs. R. E. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Kline, Mr. and Mrs. A. Magee, Miss J. M. Betts, Mrs. R. Fair, Mr. and Mrs. P. Anderson, General and Mrs. Leonard Wood, Capt. H. Dorey, U.S.A., Messrs. E. J. Byrne, R. N. Graham, and J. H. Sedgwick, Lt. Comdr. and Mrs. A. L. Key and 2 children, Miss M. Unger, Lt. Comdr. C. E. Rommel, U.S.N., Lieut. J. J. Raby, U.S.N., Comdr. H. Hutchins, U.S.N., Lt. Comdr. A. W. Dodd, U.S.N., Lieut. H. G. Gates, U.S.N., Mrs. D. J. Baker and child, Messrs. Casey Baker and Auguste Jean, Mr. and Mrs. I. Beck, and Mrs. S. La Grava.

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